

FOOTPRINTS

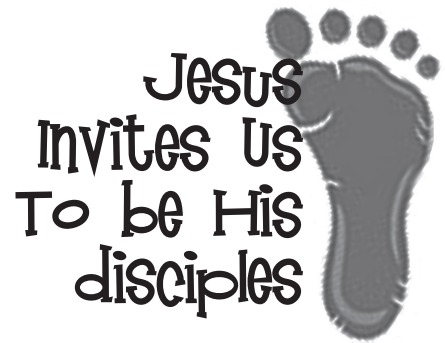
Leader's Guide for LESSON 1

For Kids

Disciples Wanted for a Lifetime Adventure!

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. To begin your group time together, invite the participants to share. **Ask:** Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week? (Acknowledge all responses.)

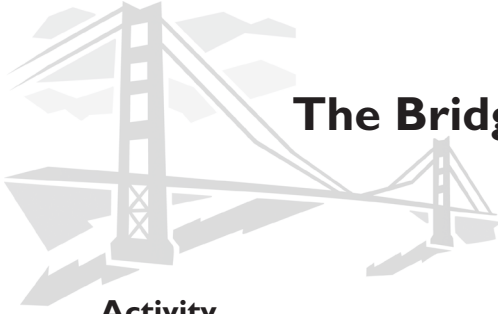


Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** what it means to be a disciple
- **Feel** ready to be Jesus' disciple
- **Respond** by saying "yes" to following Jesus now

A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day to love Jesus and bring others to Him.



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Distribute one set of clues to each family group.

Say: Follow the clues to find an adventure.

Allow time to work then call the family groups back together to report to each other.

Debrief

Ask: Why would anyone want to go on an adventure to one of these places? (It would be interesting, exciting, fun, relaxing, etc.) Was it difficult or easy to think of something special to do on this adventure? (Acknowledge responses.) In what ways might the adventure you planned be like the adventure of following Jesus? (Acknowledge responses.)

Say: Jesus invites each of us to go on an adventure with Him. Just as each family adventure was different, nobody else's adventure with Jesus will be exactly like yours.

Prayer: Say a prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to guide you as you begin your small group adventure in being disciples of Jesus.

You need

- Cards with trip descriptions on them
- One set of clues for each family

Ahead

Write the following on index cards: Side One: TRIP of a LIFETIME —1) African Safari to see wild animals; 2) Antarctica to see Penguins and Polar Bears; 3) Egyptian Pyramids and the Sphinx; 4) mountain climbing; 5) ocean/beach to swim and snorkel; 6) trip around the world. Side two: 1) Decide which trip your family would like to take together. 2) Be prepared to tell the whole group why you would like to take this trip and what interesting things you would do there.

Hide the index cards at different places around the room then write a set of clues to locate each card.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus invites us to be His disciples.

Option 1 – You need:

- **Props:** Chairs for boats, fishing net or two old sheets
- **Characters:** Jesus, Peter, Andrew, Zebedee, James, John
- **Costumes:** (Optional) Adult size T-shirts to cover child's clothes; men's ties for belts; a red scarf or length of cloth to go over Jesus' right shoulder.
- **Setting:** Arrange chairs to form two simple boats on opposite sides of the room. Peter and Andrew kneel on the seats and lean out of one boat, pulling in their net. Zebedee, James and John fish from the other boat.

Read Matthew 4:18-22 as participants mimic what is happening in the story.

You need

- A large sign or poster board to be displayed every week on which is written "A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day to love Jesus and bring others to Him."
- White board or flip chart
- Markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families. Be sure to include the number reference for each passage 1-5.

OR

Option 2

As a volunteer reads Matthew 4:18-22, pause occasionally to ask the group experiencing the story to consider what they would have seen, heard, or felt, if they had been there.

Debrief

Ask: Why did Jesus want these men to come with Him? What would you do if Jesus stood right here right now and asked you to follow Him on an adventure? (Acknowledge all responses.)

Say: Today we are going to explore a Bible story and discover that Jesus calls us to be His disciples just like He called Peter and Andrew and James and John.

Write on the board: "Disciples of Jesus..."

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families and instruct them to look up their verse and be prepared to read it to the class. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called.

- 1 Read Matthew 4:19.** What are the two actions that Jesus asked Peter and Andrew to take? (Come and follow.)

Write on the board: Come to Jesus

Write on the board: Follow Jesus

- 2 Read Matthew 4:20.** Immediately after Jesus called Peter and Andrew to come and follow Him, what did they do? (They left their nets.) In other words, they left what they were doing.

Write on the board: Leave what keeps them from following Jesus

Ask: Do you think it was easy or hard for them to leave their work and follow Jesus? (Acknowledge all answers.)

- 3 Read Mark 8:34.** Who does Jesus want to come to Him? (Anybody.)

Write on the board: Can be anybody

Ask: What kind of people did Jesus hang out with? (All kinds of people: rich, poor, popular, unpopular, healthy, sick, kind, mean, fun-loving, serious, etc.) People whom others looked down on.) What does this tell us about Jesus? (Jesus loves all people; He doesn't look down on people.)

- 4 Read Mark 3:14.** Jesus appointed twelve people to be His special disciples that we call apostles. What two things did He want for them? (To spend time with Him; to go out to preach.)

Write on the board: Spend time with Jesus

Write on the board: Tell others about Jesus

- 5 Read Matthew 28:19.** Before He left this earth, Jesus gave His disciples a challenge. What was it? (Go and make disciples of all nations.)

Write on the board: Make disciples for Jesus

Say: Jesus offers you the joy of helping a friend become His disciple too.

Ask: Why do you think this is important?

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What did we learn about disciples of Jesus?"
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Say: Jesus wants each of us to go on a discipleship adventure with Him.

Leader Share briefly your experience of saying “yes” to Jesus and following Him as His disciple. What difference has this made in your life? In what way has this been an adventure for you?

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



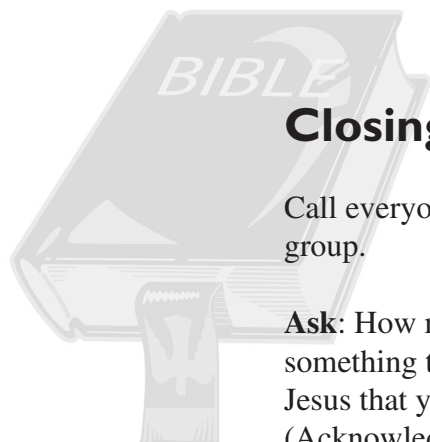
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Ask: How many of you thought of something to do this week to show Jesus that you want to be His disciple? (Acknowledge responses.)

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will invite you to share what you did to show Jesus that you want to be His disciple.

Say: Let's say the lesson *Footprint* together — **Jesus invites us to be His disciples.** I'm excited that we are beginning a discipleship adventure together today/tonight.

Close with a prayer of thanks for:

- Jesus' invitation
- the discipleship adventure that the group will be experiencing over the next months together

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus invites us to be His disciples.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over them one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

Disciples of Jesus ...

1. Come to Jesus..... Matthew 4:19
2. Follow Jesus..... Matthew 4:19
3. Leave what keeps them from following Jesus Matthew 4:20
4. Can be anybody who wants to follow Jesus..... Mark 8:34
5. Spend time with Jesus Mark 3:14
6. Tell others about Jesus Mark 3:14
7. Make disciples for Jesus..... Matthew 28:19

3. Parents/mentors: **Share** briefly a time in your life when you knew that Jesus was saying to you “Follow Me.” What difference has it made in your life to follow Jesus as His disciple?
4. Parents/mentors: **Invite** your child to make **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Would you like to say “Yes” to Jesus and go on a discipleship adventure with Him each and every day?” If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray:** Form a family circle and pray together for the decisions to follow Jesus as His disciples and to go on a discipleship adventure with Him.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Discuss** specific things you can do as a family to show Jesus that you want to go on a discipleship adventure with Him. Examples: say a praise prayer to Him each morning as soon as you wake up, sing a praise song as you get ready for the day, draw a picture or make a banner showing your family following Jesus, etc. List these in the space below.

Ideas for our family to do:

2. **Ask:** Which one would you like to do as a family this week? Decide how you will do this and when.
3. **Discuss** specific things you can do as individuals to show Jesus that you want to be His disciple. List these in the space below.

Ideas we can do as individuals:

4. Parents/mentors: **Share** one thing that you will do this week to show Jesus that you are willing to be His disciple. **Ask:** What can you do this week to show Jesus that you are willing to be His disciple? Affirm your child's ideas and give suggestions as needed.

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share what you did to show Jesus that you want to be His disciple.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share a time when you trusted Jesus with a specific problem, fear or situation when you were a child or recently.

Disciples Wanted for a Lifetime Adventure!

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 1

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: John 3:16

Activity: Cut pictures of faces from old magazines and newspapers. Glue or tape them to a piece of paper or poster board to make a collage and make a caption that says, “Jesus Wants You!”

For Discussion: To whom does Jesus offer eternal life? Is there anyone who is not included in the offer? Why does Jesus want to give you eternal life? Has anything happened to you recently that has made you want to get serious about God? This is what an eighth grade student named Dustin said in answer to that question. “When my principal died. I thought everybody would be angry with God, but they weren’t. They still had faith. It had an impact on my faith in God and helped me know that He is with me through any trial.”

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for loving you and for offering every person the gift of eternal life.

Choice Two

Scripture: Mark 8:34

Activity: Make a list of groups to which you belong. They might include your family, your class, your school, a sports team, a music group, a church family, etc.

For Discussion: What do you have to do to belong to these groups? Is anyone excluded from these groups? If yes, who, and why? What do you have to do to belong to Jesus? Is anyone excluded? If yes, who and why? Why do you think Jesus wants you to be one of His disciples?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for calling you to be a disciple and accept His invitation.

Choice Three

Scripture: Mark 8:34-37

Activity A: Look up the word “sacrifice” in the dictionary. Ask each person to define it in their own words and to give an example of a sacrifice. For example, in baseball, a sacrifice hit is one where the hitter expects to be called out, but he makes the play so he can drive in a run.

For Discussion A: A sacrifice is something that is given up in order to get something more valuable. Jesus asks us to both take up a cross and deny ourselves in order to follow Him. What does it mean to take up your cross? What does it mean to deny yourself?

Would you consider following Jesus to be a sacrifice? What do you get in return that is more valuable? For parents/mentors: Share with your child a time when you have taken up a cross or denied yourself to follow Jesus. What were the circumstances? What happened? How did that experience affect your walk with Jesus?

Activity B: Ask each person in your family to bring their most prized possession. Each person should share what makes this item so special and how they would feel if it were lost, destroyed or stolen. (If an item is too big to move easily, the owner should take the rest of the group to see it.)

For Discussion B: Would you be willing to give up your most prized possession to follow Jesus? Why do you think Jesus might ask you to give it up? For parents/mentors: Share with your child a time when you have taken up a cross or denied yourself to follow Jesus. What were the circumstances? What happened? How did that experience affect your walk with Jesus?

Prayer Point: If applicable, confess to Jesus that you may not yet be willing to take up a cross and deny yourself in order to follow Him. Ask Him to make you willing.

Choice Four

Scripture: John 1:43, John 13:35

Activity: Make a list of things or people in our world we sometimes follow instead of Jesus, such as athletes, music or movie stars, politicians, etc. Beside those things or people, write the things those people value, such as money, fame, power, etc.

For discussion: Is it easy to get distracted and follow people or things other than Jesus? What does our scripture today tell us that Jesus values? (Love.) What things do you think a disciple of Jesus might be asked to give up when he or she follows Jesus? (Cross items off your list as they are named.) Jesus promises to give us something even better than fame and fortune. Read John 14:27. He promises to give us peace and love.

Prayer Point: If applicable, confess to Jesus that it is sometimes hard to follow Him instead of the people who are popular in society. Ask Jesus to help you follow only Him.

Choice Five

Scripture: Matthew 4:18-20

Activity: Eat fish shaped crackers with your family while you find the answers to the following questions. You will probably need to consult an encyclopedia or the internet. What kinds of fish are most commonly used for food? How are these fish caught? What must a fisherman know in order to catch fish? (Where they are, what kind of bait to use, etc.)

For discussion: What did Jesus mean when he told Peter and Andrew that he would make them fishers of men? How does one go about “fishing for men?” If you were to go about “catching” a believer for Jesus, what would you need to know? (Where to look, what kind of “bait” to use, etc.) What are you doing now that would be considered “fishing for men?” What could you be doing that you aren’t? For parents/mentors: What are you doing to “fish for men?” What could you be doing that you aren’t? What can your family do together to be fishers of men?

Prayer Point: Ask Jesus to turn you into a fisher of men and to help you know where and how to catch others for Him.

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 2

For Kids

Jesus: A Friend You Can Trust

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)



Say: Last week we learned about going on a discipleship adventure with Jesus. Find someone who is not in your family to share with and briefly tell what you did to show Jesus that you want to be His disciple.

Use the "M.M." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** they can trust Jesus
- **Feel** safe trusting Jesus
- **Respond** by giving their problems to Jesus

A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day to love Jesus and bring others to Him.



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Group the class into one or more single file lines. Select one adult leader for each line to stand at the head of the line. Instruct the others to put on blindfolds, or close their eyes then put their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them.

Instruct the leaders to walk around the room offering verbal directions as they lead their group around the obstacles. Encourage them to walk through doorways, around objects, etc. then return to where they started. Allow 1-2 minutes. If time permits, select a child to become the new leader for an additional 1-2 minute walk. Be sure to select a child mature enough to be responsible for the safety of others.

Debrief

Ask: What did you like or dislike about being led around without being able to see? (Acknowledge answers.) Was it easy to trust your guide? (Acknowledge answers.) Why or why not? (Acknowledge answers.)

Say: Think about someone you trust.

Ask: What is it about this person that allows you to trust him/her? (They would never let you get hurt; they protect your feelings; they listen well and offer encouragement, etc.)

Say: In this activity we experienced trusting another person. Just as some of us had a hard time trusting in our leader, some people have a hard time trusting in Jesus. In this lesson we will explore reasons why we can trust Jesus.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.

You need

- Blindfolds (optional)

Ahead

Create an obstacle course in the meeting room using desks, chairs, etc.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus invites us to trust Him.

Activity

Say: We are going to read a story from the Bible. I would like you to imagine what it would have been like to be there. What would you see, hear and feel if you were part of the story?

Read Matthew 14:22-33 NIV around the circle with one person from each family reading one verse.

Ask: What would you see? ...hear? ...feel? What would you think if you had been in that boat? (Acknowledge all answers.)

Say: Peter trusted Jesus enough to step out of the boat. In our lesson today we will explore the relationship that Jesus wants to have with each of us and discover how we also can trust Jesus completely.

You need

- White board or flip chart
- Markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references for numbers 2-6 on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families. Omit number 1 as the whole class will read this passage in the "Activity."

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families and instruct them to look up their verses and be prepared to read them to the class. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called. Allow 2-3 minutes.

Write on the board: Reasons why we can trust Jesus:

1 **Review Matthew 14:22-33.** As we review the story of Peter what reasons did Peter have to trust Jesus? Write the answers on the marker board substituting “us” for “Peter.” If any of the following are not suggested by the group, add them.

Write on the board: Jesus has the power to help us.

Write on the board: Jesus wants to save us.

2 **Read Romans 5:8.** What did Jesus do for us?(He died for us while we were still sinners.)

Write on the board: Jesus died for us.

3 **Read Romans 8:38, 39.** What is one thing about Jesus that will never change? (Nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus.)

Write on the board: Jesus will never stop loving us.

4 **Read John 15:15.** What relationship does Jesus want to have with us? (Friends.)

Write on the board: Jesus wants to be our friend.

5 **Read Matthew 28:20.** Jesus has returned to heaven to prepare a special place for you and me, but before He left He gave us an important promise. What is His promise? (He will be with us always even to the end of the world.)

Write on the board: Jesus will always be with us.

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, “Tell me why we can trust in Jesus.”
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Say: What actions showed that Peter had complete trust in Jesus? (Stepping out of the boat/ Calling for Jesus to save him.)

Leader Share briefly an experience of trusting Jesus with one of your fears or problems. What difference has being able to trust Jesus made in your life?

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



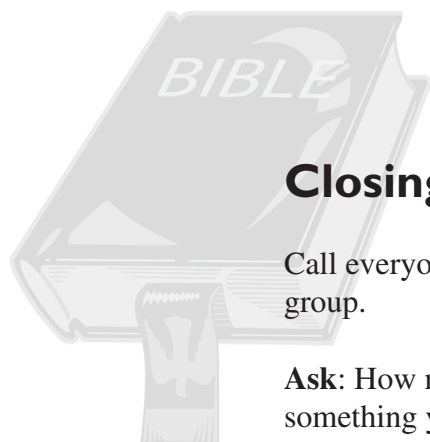
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Ask: How many of you thought of something you can trust with Jesus?

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Invite a child to assist you as you model this activity for the group. Instruct the child to look directly forward, stand straight and stiff with his/her arms at his/her side, and be prepared to fall backwards. **Say:** I want you to think of the fear or problem you talked about in your family circle time. Think about trusting Jesus completely with that fear or problem. When you are ready to trust Jesus say, “Ready to trust” then wait for me to say “Trust.” When you hear me say “Trust,” fall backwards, and I will catch you.

Stand one or two feet behind the child. When he/she says, “Ready to trust” say “Trust.” Break the fall with your hands and gently push him/her forward onto his/her feet again. Instruct parents/mentors to do this with their children.

Say: Do this activity only if you are physically able to catch your child. Ask for assistance if you think you might need help. (If any parents/mentors need help, stand beside him/her and help. Allow time for this activity.)

Say: Jesus is always ready to help you and hold you up. You can always trust Him. **Grace Point** — Next week I will invite you to share what you did to trust Jesus with a specific situation

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus invites us to trust in Him.**

Close with a prayer:

- thanking Jesus that we can trust Him completely.
- asking Jesus to help us trust Him with our problems and fears.

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. **Say** the *Footprint* together: **Jesus invites us to trust Him.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over them one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

Reasons Why I Can Trust Jesus:

1. Jesus has the power to help me Matthew 14:22-33
2. Jesus saves me..... Matthew 14:22-33
3. Jesus died for me..... Romans 5:8
4. Jesus will never stop loving me..... Romans 8:38, 39
5. Jesus wants to be my friend..... John 15:15
6. Jesus will always be with me Matthew 28:20

3. Parents/mentors: **Share** briefly a time in your past experience when you trusted Jesus with a difficult situation. What was the outcome? **Share** with your child something that you need to trust with Jesus right now.
4. **Say:** Think about something that makes you feel afraid. **Ask:** Do you want to share it with me? **Say:** Jesus wants you to trust Him with that fear. Think about some problem that you have right now. **Ask:** Do you want to share it with me? **Say:** Jesus wants you to stop worrying about that problem and trust Him to take care of it. **Ask:** What do you need to trust Jesus with right now? **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Would you like to trust Jesus with this? If your child says “Yes,” affirm the response; if “No,” **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Affirm your child’s right to make his/her own choice.
5. **Pray:** Form a family prayer circle and pray for the specific things that you need to trust with Jesus. Thank Him for being One you can trust.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Brainstorm** for specific things you can do to trust Jesus in different situations such as when you feel afraid, when you have a problem that you can't solve, when you have an opportunity to share Him, or when Jesus impresses you to do something for Him.

Things I can do to trust Jesus:

(Examples: Claim a Bible promise, say a specific prayer for this situation, ask Jesus to help you NOT to be afraid, make a banner about trusting Jesus, write "T-R-U-S-T" on a stone to carry in your pocket, etc.)

2. **Ask:** What Bible promises can help us trust Jesus more?

List Bible Promises:

3. Parent/mentor: **Share** one specific thing you will do as a parent/mentor to trust Jesus with a specific challenge this coming week.
4. **Invite** your child to select one thing he/she will do to trust Jesus with a specific challenge this coming week. Affirm his/her response.

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share what you did to trust Jesus with a specific challenge.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share an experience when you received a surprise gift. Reflect on how receiving that gift reminds you of God's gift of salvation.

Jesus: A Friend You Can Trust!

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 2

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Psalm 62:8

Activity: Look up the word “trust” in a dictionary. Using that as a guide, write a Christian definition. Decorate the paper where you have written your definition and display it in your home where others can enjoy it.

For Discussion: A fourth-grader named Krista tells about a time when she was afraid and decided to trust Jesus: “I tried all summer to learn how to dive but I was just too afraid to try. One day my friend told me to pray to Jesus. I prayed that I could do it and not be afraid. Right after that I jumped and nothing bad happened to me!” Has there ever been a time in your life when you were afraid and decided to trust Jesus? What happened?

Prayer Point: Pray that your trust in Jesus will grow and will fill your heart and the hearts of those around you.

Choice Two

Scripture: Genesis 22:1-18

Activity: Call friends or family members and ask them to share an experience that helped their trust in Jesus grow.

For Discussion: In what ways do we show our trust in Jesus? What happens to those around us when we trust in Jesus?

Prayer Point: Ask God to make you willing to trust Him with anything and everything in your life, especially the things that are most important to you.

Choice Three

Scripture: Matthew 6:25-27

Activity: Fill a bird feeder, if you have one. If not, sprinkle some birdseed or breadcrumbs on the ground and watch birds with your family.

For Discussion: What in your life is causing you worry? What do you need to turn over to God?

Prayer Point: Ask God to make you like one of His birds and to help you put your complete trust in Him.

Choice Four

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:7

Activity: Think of something that is making you anxious or causing you to worry. Blow bubbles with bubble solution and a bubble wand as you tell God that you are turning that difficult thing over to Him. As your bubbles float away, imagine your troubles floating into God's care. Talk to God silently or out loud, whichever you prefer.

For discussion: Why is it sometimes difficult to trust God? What is the solution?

Prayer Point: Ask God to help you trust Him more every day.

Choice Five

Scripture: Psalm 63:7; Acts 16:25, 26

Activity: Compose a short song about trusting in God. Use a tune you already know or write a new one. If you're not much of a musician, sing a song about trust that you already know.

For discussion: Who does "your" refer to in this verse? What does it mean to be "in the shadow of your wings?" Why do you think Paul and Silas were singing in prison? Does singing about trusting God help you trust Him more or less? Why?

Prayer Point: Ask God to give you the peace and joy that come from trusting Him in any situation.

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 3

For Kids

The Gift of Jesus' Grace

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

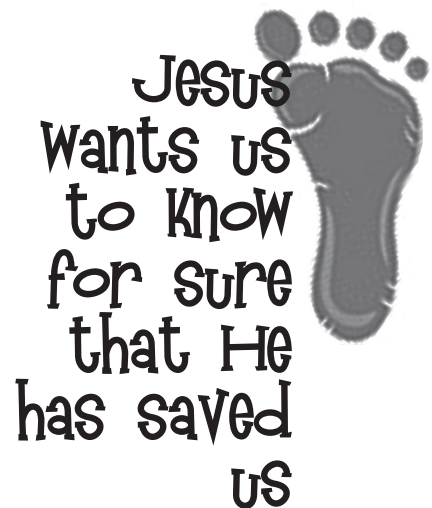
Say: Last week we learned that Jesus is a Friend we can trust. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you trusted with Jesus this past week.

Use the "M.M." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home

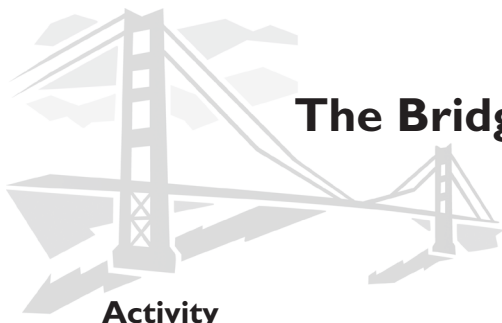
Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** with assurance that they are saved
- **Feel** secure in what Jesus has done for them
- **Respond** by thanking Jesus for His gift of salvation



*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Invite the participants to divide into two groups with children in one group and adults in the other. Instruct them to take opposite ends of the tug-of-war rope.

Say: Ready, set, go!

Affirm the winners and the losers.

Debrief

Ask: Was this contest fair? (No.) Why?
(The adults were stronger.)

Invite one of the youngest/smallest children to stand at one end of the rope and one of the oldest/largest children to stand at the opposite end. **Say:** Get ready. Then **Ask:** Is this contest fair? (Acknowledge responses.) **Say:** Let's get some help for (name of smaller child.) Invite one of the strongest adults to stand beside the smaller child and hold the rope along with him/her.

Say: Ready, set, go!

Ask: Why didn't (name of smaller child) have a chance against (name of larger child)? (Acknowledge responses.) Did you expect (name of larger child) to lose when (name of adult) came to help? Why? (Acknowledge answers.)

Say: We are in a tug-of-war with Satan. He knows he can win. But when we choose Jesus, Satan doesn't stand a chance. Jesus wants you to know that with Him pulling for you, you can know for sure that you will be a winner every time.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.

You need

- Long, heavy-duty rope

Ahead

Mark out space on the floor for a tug-of-war. Mark a center spot and two spots of equal distance from the center. Mark the center of the rope and lay the rope on the floor with the center of the rope on the center of the floor marking. The winning team will move the center of the rope across the spot marked on the floor at their end.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus wants us to know for sure that He has saved us.

Activity

Say: We are going to read a story from the Bible. I would like you to imagine what it would have been like to be there. What would you see, hear and feel if you were there? Read Luke 23:33-45 NIV around the circle with one person from each family reading one verse.

Say: This is a sad story, isn't it? **Ask:** What would you see? ...hear? ...feel? if you had been there? **Say:** In our lesson today we are going to discover why Jesus was willing to die on the cross for us.

Ask: If Jesus came back to our earth today do you know for sure that you would go to heaven with Him? (Acknowledge answers.)

Say: Jesus wants you to know for sure. Let's look at what the Bible teaches us about being sure we will go to heaven with Jesus.

You need

- White board or flip chart
- Markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families. Be sure to include the number reference.

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families and instruct them to look up their verses and be prepared to read them to the class. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called. Allow 2-3 minutes.

Write on the board: Five steps to Jesus

1 Read Romans 5:8. What did God show us by sending Jesus to die for us? (God showed us how much He loves us.)

Write on the board: STEP 1 — Know that God loves you

2 Read Romans 3:23 and 6:23 (first part). These texts tell us that all people have a problem. What is our problem? (We are sinners who deserve to die; we need someone to save us.)

Write on the board: STEP 2 — Realize you need the Savior

3 Read 1 John 1:9. What does confess mean? (Admit you are a sinner.)

Write on the board: STEP 3 — Confess your sins

4 Read John 3:16. How do we receive eternal life? (By believing in Jesus.)

Read Romans 6:23 (last part) What is God's free gift to you? (God's gift is eternal life.)

Write on the board: STEP 4 — Believe in Jesus and have eternal life

5 Read Revelation 3:20. Once we believe in Jesus as our Savior, once we realize that He can take care of our sin problem and give us eternal life, what do we need to do? (Open the door of our heart to Jesus.)

Write on the board: STEP 5 — Invite Jesus into your heart

Ask: When you go home, why don't you knock before you enter? (Because you belong in the family.) You have a room inside. You may even have a key to the door. Heaven is the same way. You don't have to ask permission to get in. You don't have to wonder if He will let you in. You are Jesus' child. He is your key to the door of heaven.

6 Read 1 John 5:13. What does this verse say that we can know for sure right now? (That we have eternal life.)

Write on the board: We can KNOW we have eternal life!

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What are the five steps to Jesus?" After they complete these five ask "What can we know for sure right now?"
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Say: A gift is not something we earn or win. It is something we accept from another person. And that's how it is with Jesus; salvation is not something we earn or win. It is Jesus' gift to us, and it becomes ours when we accept it

Leader Share briefly your experience of understanding that Jesus' gift of salvation was for you. What does being assured of salvation mean to you? How has it made a difference in your life?

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils
- Small gifts/trinkets for each child (i.e. pencil, eraser, bookmark, etc.)



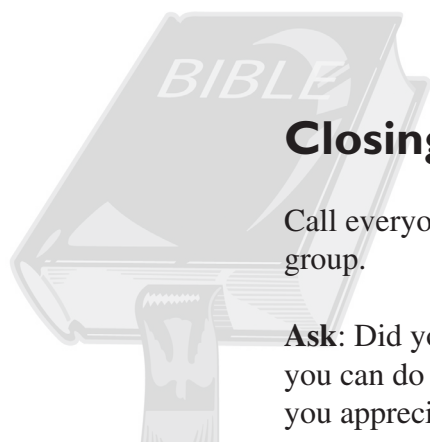
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time "warning" to the other families such as, "Please finish in three more minutes." Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Ask: Did you think of something specific you can do this week to show Jesus that you appreciate His gift of salvation?

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will invite you to share what you did to show Jesus that you appreciate His gift of salvation.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to know for sure that He has saved us**

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for His gift of eternal life

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to know for sure that He has saved us.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over them one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

Five Steps to Jesus ...

Step One — Know God loves you	Romans 5:8
Step Two — Know that you need a Savior	Romans 3:23
	Romans 6:23 (first part)
Step Three — Confess your sins	John 1:9
Step Four — Believe in Jesus and have eternal life	John 3:16
	Romans 6:23 (last part)
Step Five — Invite Jesus into your heart	Revelation 3:20
Know right now that you have eternal life	1 John 5:13

3. **Activity:** Select an item for your child and place it in a plain brown paper bag. Tell your child that he/she can have the gift if he/she correctly identifies what it is. The child must describe it in exact detail (color, shape, weight, etc.) After a few moments of incorrect guessing, give the item to your child and make the following points.
 - You did not earn this by guessing correctly. You did not win this. It is a gift. I offered it to you, and it became yours when you reached out and took it.
 - We can never win or earn heaven. Eternal life in heaven is a gift from God; it becomes ours when we accept Jesus.
4. Parents/mentors: **Share** briefly a time when you received a surprise gift. Discuss how that gift reminds you of God’s gift of salvation.
5. **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Do you want to accept Jesus’ gift of salvation? If your child says “Yes,” Invite him/her to pray a prayer of invitation to Jesus.* (See model prayer on reverse side.) If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Prayer:** Form a family prayer circle and thank Jesus for His gift of salvation.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Ask:** How do you feel knowing that you have eternal life and will go to heaven?
2. **Discuss:** What can we do as a family to show Jesus that we appreciate His gift of salvation?

Things we can do to show Jesus we appreciate His gift of salvation:

3. **Ask:** When can we do this together?

Prayer of Invitation*

Dear Jesus,
Thank You for loving me enough to die for my sins.
I want to be in heaven with You.
Forgive me of all my sins and completely clean out my whole heart.
I accept Your free gift of salvation.
Come into my heart and stay there forever.
Thank You, Jesus!
—Amen.

Special Note to parents/mentors: Many adults have questions about knowing they are saved. If you or your child have questions, write them down and meet with the class leader or your pastor to discuss them together.

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share what you did to show Jesus you appreciate His gift of salvation.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share a personal devotional time with God that was especially meaningful to you.

The Gift of Jesus' Grace!

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 3

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Joshua 24:14-15

Activity: Review your Sabbath school lesson this week (or choose a favorite Bible story) and identify people who have either accepted or rejected Jesus' gift of eternal life. What clues in the story help you know what choice they have made?

For Discussion: Why would serving the Lord seem undesirable? Why would anyone want to reject eternal life?

Prayer Point: Ask Jesus to always make you willing to serve Him. Thank Him for making it possible for you to have a choice.

Choice Two

Scripture: Romans 6:23

Activity: Look at a pay stub for a member of the family. Take note of all the deductions.

For Discussion: Whose wages were those? What were all the deductions for? Does the Bible say that anything is deducted from the wages of sin? What's the best gift you've ever received? Was there anything you did to deserve or earn it? What's the difference between wages and a gift? What's better – wages or a gift?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for giving you eternal life as a gift, instead of the wages we have earned.

Choice Three

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-5, Revelation 22:1-6

Activity: Look up the outcome of a sporting event in the sports pages of the newspaper. What was the outcome? Did the players know the outcome this time yesterday?

For Discussion: The verses you just read tell you the outcome of the enmity between Satan and God's people. What is that outcome? How does that make you feel?

A fourth grader named Landon said this about heaven: "When I think about heaven I imagine there will be real pretty green grass, lots of trees and happy children playing all the time."

I know heaven will be perfect! There will be nothing bad there, not one thing! The best thing I imagine about heaven is all my family and friends being there with Jesus.”

What are some things that you imagine about heaven?

Prayer point: Thank Jesus for guaranteeing the outcome of the enmity between us and Satan. Thank Him for telling us the outcome in the Bible

Choice Four

Scripture: Genesis 3:8-10; 1 John 1:9

Activity: On a piece of paper write down something that God already knows, but that you need to tell Him in order to reestablish your connection with Him. After your prayer, destroy the piece of paper (burn it carefully with adult supervision, tear it into tiny pieces, flush it down the toilet, etc.).

For discussion: Did God know what Adam and Eve had done before they told Him? Does God know what sins you have committed before you confess? Why do you think the Bible tells us we need to confess? Before Adam and Eve sinned, they used to enjoy a daily walk in the garden with God. As soon as they sinned, they hid from God. That’s what sin does – it separates us from God. Confessing reestablishes our connection with God. Someone once said that confessing is telling God what He already knows.

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for forgiving all your sins. Ask Him to help you always be honest with Him and to keep your connection strong.

Choice Five

Scripture: John 14:15; John 15:12

Activity: Give your child a small gift certificate (to a toy store, ice cream shop, etc.) When your child accepts it, ask what it would take to help them enjoy that gift. Chances are they will want you to take them to the store as soon as possible.

For discussion: Why do some people seem content to accept the gift of salvation and never give it a chance to change their lives? In what ways should Jesus’ gift change you? Is your life showing that you have accepted Jesus’ gift of salvation? Is there anything your family might change to better show that they have chosen to accept God’s gift?

Prayer Point: Thank God for his wonderful gift and ask Him to help your life show that you have accepted His gift.

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 4

For Kids

Spend Time Alone with God!

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

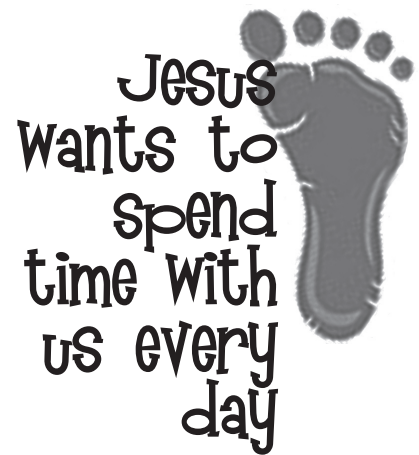
Say: Last week we learned that Jesus wants us to know for sure that He has saved us, and that we will go to heaven with Him. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did to show Jesus that you appreciate His gift of salvation.

Use the "M.M." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that spending time with God every day is important
- **Feel** the need to have daily Time Alone with God (T.A.G. time)
- **Respond** by planning personal T.A.G. for this coming week



*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Show the filled container to the class. Empty it and challenge three volunteers to work as a team to fill the container again. Allow them to put the rocks back in any order they choose. (The rocks will not all fit back into the container unless they place them in order by size with the largest rocks on the bottom.) After they finish, empty the container, and **Say:** This didn't work because __ (names of kids) ____ didn't know to put the biggest rocks in first. The biggest rocks are the most important for this activity because if you don't put them in first you won't be able to fit all the rocks back into the container. Invite three volunteers to refill the container. Tell them to shake the container occasionally to help the smaller rocks fill all the spaces. Allow time.

Debrief

Ask: What had to be done to make this activity work? (Put the larger rocks in first; plan and organize; work together.) Which rocks were the most important to making them all fit? (The biggest rocks.)

Say: In our lesson today we will discover one "Big Rock" that needs to be in place in our lives each day.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.

You need

- 1 clear quart-size container and lid
- Large rocks to fill the container (as large as you can fit into the mouth of the container)
- Medium size rocks
- Small rocks
- Sand (optional)

Ahead

Completely fill the container with the rocks -- larger ones at the bottom.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus wants to spend time with us every day.

Activity

Have the families read Daniel 6:10-22 by going around the circle and having each person read one verse.

Ask: How do we know that time alone with God (T.A.G.) was important to Daniel? (T.A.G. was a daily habit — he continued to pray even though this put his life in danger.)

Say: Time with God was a “Big Rock” for Daniel. **Ask:** What did Daniel include in his prayers? (Giving thanks to God and asking God to help him.)

Say: If you really want a friendship with Jesus, spending time with Him has to be an important part of your day. It has to be the “biggest rock” that goes into your jar.

You need

- White board or flip chart
- Markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families. Be sure to include the number reference.

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families and instruct them to look up their verses and be prepared to read them to the class. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called. Allow 2-3 minutes.

Write on the board: Things we can do to make T.A.G. (Time Alone with God) special.

Ask: What does Daniel's story tell us about T.A.G.? (Acknowledge all responses.)

Write on the board: Make T.A.G. a daily habit

1 **Read Psalm 42:1, 2.** How did the writer of this verse feel about the time he spent with God? (He had a thirst for time with God.)

Write on the board: Make T.A.G important

2 **Read Mark 1:35.** How did Jesus get ready for His day? (Jesus prayed.)

Write on the board: Start each day by talking with God

Ask: Where did Jesus pray? (In a solitary place.)

Write on the board: Find a quiet place to be alone

3 **Read John 14:26.** Who should we invite to guide us as we spend time alone with God? (The Holy Spirit.)

Write on the board: Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your Bible study

4 **Read John 5:39.** Who should be the focus of T.A.G.? (Jesus.)

Write on the board: Focus on learning more about Jesus

5 **Read Hebrews 3: 7, 8 (first part).** What does Jesus want us to do when we spend time alone with Him? (When we hear His voice, do not harden our hearts.)

Write on the board: Open your heart to what Jesus is telling you

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "How can we make T.A.G. special?"
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly a time when your T.A.G. was especially meaningful to you.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



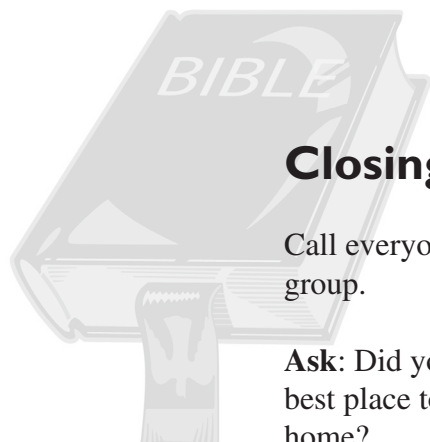
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils
- Smooth rocks
- Fine point permanent markers



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Ask: Did you think of the best time and best place to have T.A.G. this week at home?

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Grace Point — **Say:** Next week I will invite you to share one T.A.G. experience.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants to spend time with us every day**

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for the Bible examples He has given us for spending time with God every day
- asking Jesus to help each person plan T.A.G. this week

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants to spend time with us everyday.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over them one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

T.A.G. – Time Alone with God...

1. Make T.A.G. a daily habit.....Daniel 6:10
2. Make T.A.G. the most important part of your day Psalm 42:1, 2
3. Start each day by talking with GodMark 1:35
4. Choose a quiet place where you can be alone.....Mark 1:35
5. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your T.A.G.John 14:26
6. Focus on learning more about Jesus.....John 5:39
7. Open your heart to what Jesus is telling you..... Hebrews 3:7, 8

3. Parents/mentors: **Share** briefly a time in your life when your time alone with God was especially powerful or meaningful. Were you wrestling with a decision or worried about a problem? Did you praise God in a particularly meaningful way?.
4. **THE CHOICE — Ask:** Will you make a choice to spend time alone with God each day? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Prayer:** Form a family circle and ask Jesus to help you spend time alone with Him every day.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Share** with your child the biggest obstacles you face in finding time to spend with God. How are you seeking God's help in overcoming these?
2. Help your child **plan** a time each day to spend alone with God.

What time of day is best for you?

Where is the best place?

Offer your assistance to facilitate T.A.G. Offer to wake your child up a few minutes earlier or to remove distractions, etc

3. **Activity:** Invite each member of your family to select a rock then write "T.A.G." on their rock. Allow time to complete this activity. **Ask:** Where can you put this rock to help you remember to set aside time to spend with God?
4. Give your child the T.A.G. handout. **Review** it together and encourage him/her to use it as a way of starting to spend daily time alone with God.

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share one T.A.G. experience with us.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share a time when you were blessed by using your time or talent or treasure for God.

Spend Time Alone with God

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 4

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Romans 12:12

Activity: Create a calendar for the rest of this month and all of next month. Draw one yourself or print it off the computer. Label it T.A.G. and hang it in your quiet place. Each day that you keep your appointment with God write down the Scripture passage you read and draw a happy face in the box for that day.

For Discussion: What do you like best about your T.A.G. time? How do you think Jesus feels if you miss your appointment with Him? How is spending time with Him different from spending time with your other friends?

Prayer Point: Ask God to help you remember to keep your daily appointment with Him.

Choice Two

Scripture: Philippians 4:6

Activity: Make a list of things you would like to pray about. Be sure to include both petitions (requests) and thanksgiving (things to thank God for.)

For Discussion: Hannah, a fourth grader, said, "I always pray if I am going to read my Bible. I mostly like to pray and read my Bible in my bedroom and at church. I pray a lot of times when I am not reading my Bible, like one day when I broke my arm, I just prayed. I can pray anytime I want to talk to God."

Are you more likely to pray during happy times or unhappy times? Why? How is talking with God like talking with a friend or a family member? How is it different?

Prayer Point: Pray for the things on your list. Thank God for always being there for us, any time, any where.

Choice Three

Scripture: Psalm 90:14

Activity: Begin a prayer journal. In a small notebook, write down your prayer requests and the date. As those requests are answered, check them off and write down the date they were answered.

For Discussion: What do you do to remember your special times with your friends and family? What do you do to remember your special times with God? Will your friendship with God grow as strong if you don't spend regular time with Him? Why or why not? How can a prayer journal help you sing for joy and be glad all your days?

Prayer point: Pray for the requests in your prayer journal. Thank God for pouring out His unfailing love on us every morning.

Choice Four

Scripture: Psalm 143:8

Activity: Call one of your friends from your *Footprints* class and ask how T.A.G. time is going. Encourage him or her to spend time alone with God.

For discussion: How does God show you the way you should go? What have you read in your Bible this week that helps you know God's plan for your life?

Prayer Point: Pray for the requests in your prayer journal. Ask God to show you the way you should go.

Choice Five

Scripture: Luke 5:16

Activity: Study the gospels for information on Jesus' prayer habits. Write down anything that shows up more than once.

For discussion: What can you learn from the way Jesus spent time with His Father? Do you think you can have the same kind of relationship with the Father that Jesus had? Why or why not? If yes, what would you need to do to have that kind of relationship? If not, why not?

Prayer Point: Ask God to give you the same desire to spend time with Him that Jesus had.

My World — handout

My T.A.G. — Time Alone with God

Name _____

Date _____

1. Begin your time alone with God by inviting the Holy Spirit to be with you.
2. Use S.O.A.P.
 - **Scripture** – Select a text or passage to read. Write the passage down in a Bible Study Journal or memorize it or use it to make something creative like a bookmark or banner.
 - **Observe** – What’s going on in this text or passage? Ask: Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? You won’t be able to answer every question in every passage.
 - **Apply** – Ask yourself: What does Jesus want me to know or to do based upon this text or passage?
 - **Pray** – Pray to Jesus about what you have read in His Word. Ask Him to help you know how to use this passage in your life today.
3. Read through a book of the Bible like the Gospel of Mark. Read a few verses in Chapter 1. As you read, use **S.O.A.P.** Keep track of how many verses you read each time. When you have completed a whole chapter, record your progress by putting a check mark beside the chapter number below or on a calendar.

The Gospel of Mark — Chapter Completed:

Chapter Completed:

___ Chapter 1

___ Chapter 9

___ Chapter 2

___ Chapter 10

___ Chapter 3

___ Chapter 11

___ Chapter 4

___ Chapter 12

___ Chapter 5

___ Chapter 13

___ Chapter 6

___ Chapter 14

___ Chapter 7

___ Chapter 15

___ Chapter 8

___ Chapter 16

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 5

For Kids

Your Time, Talents and Treasure

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

All we have
belongs
to Jesus



Say: Last week we learned that Jesus wants to spend time with us every day. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did with T.A.G. this past week.

Use the "M.M." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that their time, talents and treasure are gifts from God
- **Feel** happy to use their time, talents and treasure for God
- **Respond** by choosing specific ways to use their time, talents and treasure for God

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Give each participant a copy of the handout and a pen/pencil. Instruct them to ask questions of the other participants and collect one or more signatures beside each description. Allow 4 to 5 minutes then call time and have everyone return to their seats.

Debrief

Say: Raise your hand if you got to sign someone's paper. We are all good at something. There is a word for things that we can do well; what is that word? (Talent.) Where did you get the talents you have? (From God.) Is there anything on this list that isn't a talent? Is there anything on the list that cannot be used to serve God? (No.)

Say: Today we are going to discover three things that God has given each of us to use for His service – time, talents and treasure.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.

You need

- One *Find Someone Who* handout for each participant
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Make copies of the *Find Someone Who* handout.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
All we have belongs to Jesus.

Characters:

- The Master
- The first servant
- The second servant
- The third servant
- 4 narrators

You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- 4 copies of the script
- 15 coins of the same denomination
- Small coin purse or money bag

Ahead

Assign the narrative, reading and character parts. Tell characters to listen to the script and act the parts as the story is read. Give the master the money bag full of coins with instructions to use the coins for talents prompted in the story. Give servants 1 & 2 the extra coins they will need to return to the master at the end.

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references for numbers 2-5 on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families. Be sure to include the number reference.

Activity

Based on Matthew 25:14-29, NIV.

Narrator 1 One day Jesus told a story that went like this: The kingdom of heaven is like a man who planned to take a journey. He called together his servants and said, “I’m going to take a journey, and I want you to take care of my property while I am gone.”

Narrator 2 To the first servant, the master gave five talents.

Narrator 3 [Pause while the master gives the coins.] To the second servant, the master gave two talents.

Narrator 4 [Pause.] And to the third servant, the master gave one talent, each according to his ability. [Pause.] Then the master went on his journey.

Narrator 1 The first servant who had received five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the second servant with two talents gained two more.

But the third servant who had received one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

After a long time the master returned and called his servants to report to him.

Narrator 2 The first servant came and said, “Master, you gave me five talents, and I have gained five more.”

The master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with what I gave you, so I will give you even more!

Narrator 3 The second servant came and said, “Master, you gave me two talents, and I have gained two more.”

The master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with what I gave you, so I will give you even more!

Narrator 4 The third servant came and said, “Master, I knew that you were a hard man, and I uh, well, I was afraid that I might lose the talent you gave me and so I, uh, well, I hid it in the ground. Here it is.”

Narrator 1 The master was not happy. He said, “Why didn’t you at least put it in the bank where it could earn some interest? Give your talent to the first servant. And now get out of my sight. You’re fired!

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families and instruct them to look up their verses and be prepared to read them to the class. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called. Allow 2-3 minutes.

Write on the board: Time, Talents and Treasure.

1 Review Matthew 25:14-29. Which servants took responsibility for their master's treasure? (First and second.) What did they do to show they were responsible? (Put their talents to work.) What do you think Jesus wanted us to learn from this? (To use responsibly the talents that God has given us.)

Write on the board: Talents bring responsibility

Ask: What did the master say to the first two servants? (Well done. Now I can give you more.) What do we learn from this? (When we use our talents God will give us more talents.)

Write on the board: Those who use their talents get more talents

Ask: Why did the servant with one talent choose to do nothing with it? (He was afraid.) What happened to the servant who hid his talent? (He was rebuked by his master, lost his talent and lost his job.)

Write on the board: Talents – use them or lose them

Say: In Bible times a talent was an amount of money. Today a talent could mean an ability like being able to sing well or run fast.

When we look at the talents people have we can see there are differences – some people are more talented than others. But when we look at the gift of time we know that every person has exactly the same amount.

2 Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. What other activities that take our time could we put into this verse besides “eat” or “drink?” (Use the computer, watch TV, listen to music, play sports, play games, read etc.) What does this verse tell us to do with our time? (Do things that glorify God.)

Write on the board: Do things with our time that glorify God

3 Read Psalm 90:12. What do you think “number your days” means? (Be careful about how you use your time.)

Write on the board: Use time wisely

Say: Time is one thing that is equal for each and every person. Some people have more talents than others; some people have more money than others, but everyone has exactly the same amount of time

4 Read Malachi 3:10. What is tithe? (One tenth of the money we make.) What does this verse promise to people who give their tithe to God? (He will give them more blessings than they will be able to receive.)

Write on the board: Give a tithe back to God

5 Read 2 Corinthians 9:7. What attitude does God want us to have when we give our money in offerings? (Cheerful.)

Write on the board: Give offerings cheerfully

Ask: Why is it important for us to use some of our money to help others? Identify some projects we can use our offerings to help. (World Missions, ADRA, homeless shelters, etc.) Distribute church offering envelopes to each participant. Point out the line where tithe would be written. Point out church needs that are noted on the envelope. Encourage each participant to use the envelope this coming Sabbath.

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, “What have we learned about our time, talents and treasure?”
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Say: Everything we have belongs to Jesus. Everything we have can be used by Jesus. He can use your music, your smile, your used clothes, your ability to work hard raking leaves or cleaning houses, your words of encouragement, your knowledge.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Leader Share briefly an experience you have had when you were blessed or others were blessed when you used your time or talents or treasure for God.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



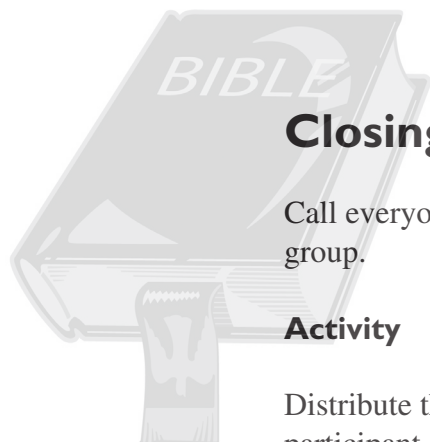
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Activity

Distribute three pennies to each participant.

You need

- Three pennies for each participant
- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Say: One of these pennies represents your talents, one your time, and one your treasure. Jesus wants you to use all three of them to share His awesome love with others.

Share your coins with three other people: one to represent your time, one to represent your talents, and one to represent your treasure. Each time you share a coin tell how you plan to use your time or talent or treasure for Jesus.

Model this activity for the participants by showing a penny and saying “This penny represents my talent of writing. I want to use my writing talent for Jesus by writing welcome cards to mail to people who are visitors to my Sabbath school class.” Personalize this with one of your talents.

Allow time for all participants to complete the activity.

Say: When you choose to use your time, talents, and treasure for God, He will do amazing things in you and through you!

Say the *Footprint* together: **All we have belongs to Jesus**

Ask: Did you think of specific things you can do this week to use your time, talents and treasure for God?

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will invite you to share how you used your time or talents or treasure for God this coming week

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for the talents, time and treasure we have been given
- asking Jesus to show each participant how to use their gifts for Him

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **All we have belongs to Jesus.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over them one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

Time, Talents and Treasure...

1. Talents bring responsibility Matthew 25:14-29
2. Those who use their talents get more talents..... Matthew 25:14-29
3. Talents – use them or lose them Matthew 25:14-29
4. Use time to glorify to God..... 2 Corinthians 10:31
5. Use time wisely Psalm 90:12
6. God blesses those who tithe Malachi 3:10
7. Give offerings cheerfully 2 Corinthians 9:6, 7

3. Parents/mentors: **Share** briefly a time when you were blessed by using your time or talents or treasure for God.
4. **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Would you like to choose to use your time, talents, and treasure for Jesus? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Prayer:** Form a family prayer circle and ask Jesus to help you use your time, talents and treasure for Him.

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to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. Use the chart below to **brainstorm** for ways your child can use his/her time, talents and treasure for God. For each section begin with the question: “What do you think Jesus would like you to do?”

Time (Example: Spend 15 minutes each day doing something to help around the house without being asked.)

Talents (Example: Use musical ability with an elderly person to brighten his/her day. Use math ability to help a classmate do homework.)

Treasure (Example: Begin paying tithes on his/her “income.” Give offerings for specific projects from his/her own money.)

2. Parents/mentors: **Share** with your child one specific thing you will do this coming week to use your time or talents or treasure for God.
3. **Ask:** What would you like to do first from the list? What can I do to help you?

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share how you used your time or talents or treasure for God this coming week.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share an experience when you made a choice that honored God or honored your body or honored another person.

Your Time, Talents and Treasure

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 5

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Romans 12:6-8

Activity: As a family, share what strengths you see in each other.

For Discussion: A sixth-grader named Alicia said: “One of my gifts from God is being outgoing. Our church is involved in a ministry that helps homeless people and gives them shelter. When I go there to visit, I talk to the homeless kids and sometimes give them crafts that I’ve made. One little second grader told me that nobody at her school liked her, so I decided to be her friend.”

Identify two of Alicia’s talents. What strengths do you have that you can use for Jesus?

Prayer Point: Ask Jesus to show you your talents so you can use them to help others.

Choice Two

Scripture: Matthew 25:21

Activity: Begin a talent journal where you write down what talents you think you might have and how you plan to use them for Jesus. Note how your talents and the opportunities to use them change or increase when you dedicate them to God.

For Discussion: What is the difference between giving our talents to God and giving them to the world? Talk with your family about ways you can get together with others as a group and share your talents for God.

Prayer Point: Dedicate your talents to God and His service.

Choice Three

Scripture: Mark 12:41-43

Activity: Using a concordance, do a Bible study on money and how to use it.

For Discussion: What do you think is more important to God: the size of your gift, or your willingness to use it for Him? Is any gift too small?

Prayer point: Ask Jesus to make you willing to give all your talents, time and treasure to Him.

Choice Four

Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-13

Activity: Take a survey of your friends, church members or classmates and ask them what they think your talents and strengths are.

For discussion: Do we always recognize our talents and strengths? How can others help us know how we have been equipped to serve?

Prayer Point: Pray that God will help you discover your talents and show you how to best use them for Him.

Choice Five

Scripture: Matthew 25:28, 29

Activity: Brainstorm with your family and find someone in the Bible who was reluctant to use his or her talents or resources to serve God. What happened?

For discussion: How do you think it would feel to stand before God and tell Him you didn't want to use the talents, time and treasure He gave you to serve Him?

Prayer Point: Ask God to make you willing to give all your talents, time and treasure to Him.



Find Someone Who...

1. Is good at math _____
2. Likes to smile _____
3. Plays a musical instrument well _____
4. Draws or paints well _____
5. Is good at fixing things _____
6. Is a good reader _____
7. Knows how to bake bread or cookies _____
8. Can whistle _____
9. Can juggle _____
10. Speaks more than one language _____
11. Is a good storyteller _____
12. Makes friends easily _____
13. Makes other people laugh _____
14. Is good at making crafts _____
15. Likes outdoor activities _____

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 6

For Kids

Honor God with Your Choices

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

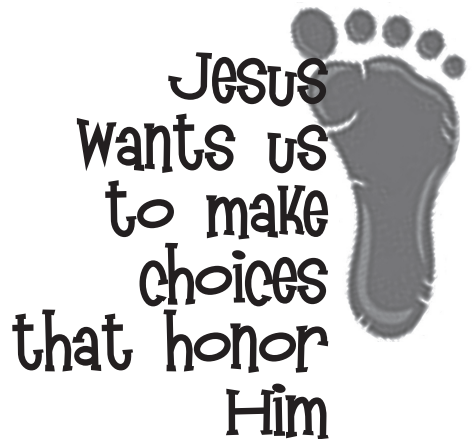
Say: Last week we learned that all we have belongs to Jesus. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did this past week to use your time, talents or treasure for God.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

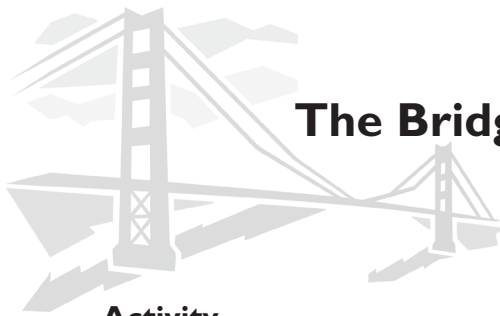
Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** how to make choices that honor God
- **Feel** convicted to honor God in all their choices
- **Respond** by inviting Jesus to give them wisdom and strength to make wise choices



*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

You need

- Small sheets of paper for scoring
- Pens/pencils

Instruct the participants to form pairs to play a game of “Rock, Paper, Scissors.*” Distribute one small sheet of paper and one pen/pencil to each person.

Say: You will have 1 minute to play with your first partner. Keep track of how many times you win. When I call “Time,” write your score on your sheet of paper then find another partner.

Tell them to “Begin” then say “Time” when 1 minute is up. Allow time to write their scores and find a new partner then say “Begin” for the next round. Play 5 rounds of 1 minute each.

* Game instructions: The two players each make a fist with one hand and hold the other open, palm upward. Simultaneously, the two players tap their fists in their open palms once, twice, and on the third time form one of three choices: a **rock** (by keeping the hand in a fist), a sheet of **paper** (by holding the hand flat, palm down), or a pair of **scissors** (by extending the first two fingers and holding them apart).

The winner of each round depends on the choices made. If the players each make the same item, it’s a tie. If they make a rock and scissors, the rock wins, because a rock can smash scissors. If they make scissors and paper, the scissors win, because scissors can cut paper. If they make paper and a rock, the paper wins, because a sheet of paper can cover a rock.

Debrief

Ask: How many times did you win? (Acknowledge responses – have participants celebrate their wins.) What difference did your choices make in this game? (Determined how many wins they had.) How is making choices in this game similar to making choices each day? (Sometimes we have to make a choice quickly without time to think; our choices can help us win or lose.) How is making choices in this game different from making choices each day? (We had only 3 options, etc.)

Say: The choices in this game were not important in the scheme of life, yet some choices we make each day are important.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus wants us to make choices that honor Him.

Activity

Invite volunteers to dress in simple costumes and act out the story as the script is read. Invite one parent to read the narration. Invite parents/mentors to supply sound effects for the storm.

Based on the book of Jonah.

Narrator

The word of the Lord came to Jonah saying, "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it because its wickedness has come up before me."

But Jonah did not obey the Lord. He ran away and found a ship sailing in the opposite direction to the city of Tarshish.

The Lord sent a great wind on the sea. A violent storm arose and the ship was tossed about. All the sailors were afraid. They each cried out to their different gods to help them. They threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship, but it didn't help.

Jonah had gone below deck and was sound asleep when the captain found him. He asked Jonah, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us and save us."

Jonah answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God who made the heavens, the earth, and the sea." This terrified them all. Then Jonah told the sailors that he had run away from his God.

The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So the sailors asked Jonah, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?"

You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- 1 copy of the script
- Simple costumes and props
- Spools of thread and scissors

Ahead

Copy the script. Assign a participant to read the narration. Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution to the families. Be sure to include the number reference on each one.

“Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” Jonah said, “and it will become calm. I know it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

So they took hold of Jonah and threw him overboard. The raging sea immediately grew calm.

God provided a great fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. From inside the fish Jonah prayed to God. Then the Lord commanded the fish and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim the message I gave you.”

This time Jonah obeyed. He preached to the people in Nineveh and they listened to him. They believed God and repented of their wickedness. When God saw what the people of Nineveh did and how they turned from their evil ways, He had compassion on them and saved them.

Debrief

Say: Jonah had a choice. He could choose to obey God and go to Nineveh or he could choose to not obey God and run away.

Ask: What happened when Jonah didn’t make a wise choice? (He put himself and others in danger.) How do we know that God still loved Jonah even when he ran away? (God still was with him and prepared a fish to rescue him.)

Say: Choosing God’s way over our own way is not always easy. Like Jonah, we might not know what the consequences of our choice will be. No matter what, God does not abandon us even when we make the wrong choice.

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families and instruct them to look up their verse and be prepared to read it to the class. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called.

Write on the board: Three guides for making choices:

- 1. Read Joshua 24:15.** What is the first and most important choice that we need to make?

Write on the board: Honor God

Read Philippians 4:8. How can we honor God with our choices according to this verse? (By focusing on those things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praise worthy.)

- 2 Read 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.** What does this passage tell us to honor and why? (Honor our bodies because they are a temple for the Holy Spirit.)

Write on the board: Honor our bodies

What are some choices that would honor our bodies? (Not using harmful substances, taking care of our bodies with good food, rest, exercise, etc.)

- 3 Read Matthew 7:12.** If we put this verse into practice who will we be honoring? (Other people.)

Write on the board: Honor others

Write on the board: How to make choices that honor God

- 4 Read James 1:5.** What do you need to do when you are faced with a choice? (Ask God to help you know what to do.)

Write on the board: Ask God for wisdom

Activity

Give each family group a spool of thread and a pair of scissors. Instruct the parents/mentors to tie their child's hands together with a single strand of thread. Then ask the child to see if he/she can break the thread. Instruct the parent/mentor to wind another length of the thread around many times until it becomes impossible for the child to break. Ask the child if he/she can break the thread now. Instruct the parents/mentors to leave the students' hands tied until question 5.

Ask: What does this activity tell you about habits? (They are hard to break) Habits are like ropes that tie our own hands. If we consistently make good choices, we form good habits. But if we keep choosing our own way, it becomes a bad habit that we are unable to break – maybe even an addiction. Getting over bad habits and addictions can seem impossible. But there is help.

5 Read Philippians 4:13. Jesus has promised us that there is nothing that we cannot do with His strength and power working for us. Do you have the strength to break free of bad habits? No, but God does. (Instruct the adults to cut the threads.) God will give you the strength you need to cut free from bad choices and make choices that honor Him.

Write on the board: Rely on God's strength

6 Say: Sometimes we mess up and make choices that don't honor God. What do we do then?
Read 1 John 1:9. (Confess.)

Say: It is important for us to acknowledge when we have made a wrong choice. If our choice hurt someone else, like Jonah, we need to acknowledge it to others.

Write on the board: Confess our wrong choices

7 Read Romans 8:38, 39. How does God relate to us when we make the wrong choice that does not honor Him? (He continues to love us – not even our bad choices can separate us from His love.)

Write on the board: Remember that God loves you no matter what

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What are the three guidelines for making choices?" After they complete these three ask, "How can we make choices that honor God?" (Two things.) After they complete these two ask, "What do we need to remember when we make a bad choice?"
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly a time when you made a difficult choice that resulted in blessing you or bringing honor to God.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



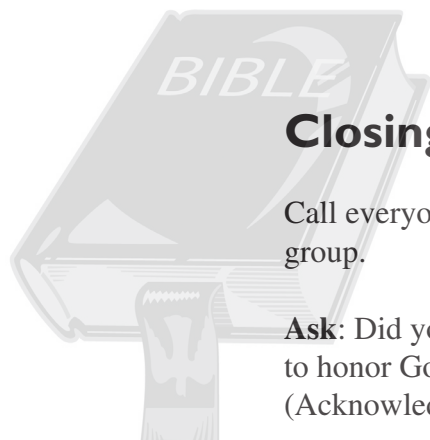
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Ask: Did you think of an area to work on to honor God by the choices you make? (Acknowledge responses)

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will invite you to share one way you honored God with your choices.

Say: Let's say the lesson *Footprint* together — **Jesus wants us to make choices that honor Him.**

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- asking God to give each one strength to make choices that honor Him

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to make choices that honor Him.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

Three guidelines for making choices:

1. Honor God Joshua 24:15, Philippians 4:8
2. Honor my body 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20
3. Honor others Matthew 7:12

How to honor God, myself and others:

1. Ask God for wisdom James 1:5
2. Rely on Jesus’ strength..... Philippians 4:13
3. Confess wrong choices..... 1 John 1:9
4. Remember Jesus loves me no matter what..... Romans 8:38, 29

3. Parents/mentors: **Share** briefly a choice you made that honored God or your body or others.
4. **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Do you want to make choices that honor God? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray:** Form a family prayer circle and ask Jesus to help you make choices that honor Him.

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to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Brainstorm** for ways you can make choices that honor God, your bodies and other people.

<p>Honor God (Examples: Choose to do T.A.G.; choose TV programs/ DVD's that are true, pure, honest)</p>	
<p>Honor my body (Examples: Choose to eat healthy food; exercise)</p>	
<p>Honor others (Examples: Choose to speak with kind words; include others in your activities; let others go first)</p>	

2. Parents/mentors: **Share** one thing that Jesus is calling you to work on individually.

3. **Ask:** What area do you think Jesus would like to work on individually? Can you think of a Bible promise to help you?

4. **Say:** Remember that God will always love you, even if you make a wrong choice. This is what to do if you make choices that do not honor God.

- Believe that Jesus loves you and is happy to help you
- Confess your bad choice to Jesus
- Get rid of anything that tempts you to make wrong choices
- Ask a prayer partner to pray for you and invite that person to regularly ask you if you are being true to Jesus
- If you continue making wrong choices, get help from a pastor or counselor or someone else you trust

Ask: Are there any things on this list that seem easy for you to do? Are there any that you think will be difficult?

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share one way you honored God with your choices.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share a time when the reading of the Bible was especially meaningful to you and why you know that you can trust the Bible.

Honor God with Your Choices

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 6

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a Mentoring Moment anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Philippians 4:8

Activity: Buy a TV guide or find one on the internet and review the options with your child. Circle the programs that would pass the Philippians 4:8 test.

For Discussion: How much of what is on TV brings honor and glory to God? How do you choose the programs you watch? Are there any shows you watch that you might want to reconsider?

Prayer Point: Ask God to help you choose to watch and read things that will build your relationship with Him.

Choice Two

Scripture: Genesis 1:29, Leviticus 11:1-3, 9; 1 Corinthians 10:31

Activity: Go to a grocery store with your child. Give him or her a few dollars to buy something for a meal for both of you.

For Discussion: What did God originally give man to eat? Did the things you chose to eat and drink bring glory to God? How does a food choice glorify God?

Prayer Point: Thank God for the abundance of foods He has provided for us. Ask Him to help you to make healthy food choices that respect the body He has given you.

Choice Three

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:31

Activity: Go window-shopping for clothes together. Discuss what clothes bring honor to God and what honors only the person wearing it.

For Discussion: What clothing choices bring honor to God? What clothing choices honor only the person wearing them?

Prayer Point: Thank God for the clothes available to you. Ask Him to help you make clothing choices that respect and honor Him instead of honoring yourself.

Choice Four

Scripture: Exodus 20:8; Joshua 24:15

Activity: Brainstorm a list of Sabbath activities that show that you choose to serve God.

For discussion: An eighth grader named Emily said, “A friend wanted me to go play Nintendo with her on Saturday. I told her Saturday was the day I keep holy. My friend respected my decision. It made me feel good because I could express my decision to her and she was fine with doing it on another day.” How do you feel when your friends do not respect your choices? What would you do if your friends asked you to do something that bothered your conscience? How would you tell them about your choice?

Prayer Point: Ask God to give you the courage to make choices that honor Him, even if your friends don’t understand or make fun of you.

Choice Five

Scripture: James 1:5

Activity: Ask each person in your family to think of a choice they have made in the past that they might make differently if they could do it over.

For discussion: Did you ask God for wisdom in making that decision? What happened? How could it have turned out differently?

Prayer Point: Thank God for forgiving you for the times you have made choices that don’t honor Him. Ask Him to help you always remember to ask for His wisdom before making decisions.

FOOTPRINTS

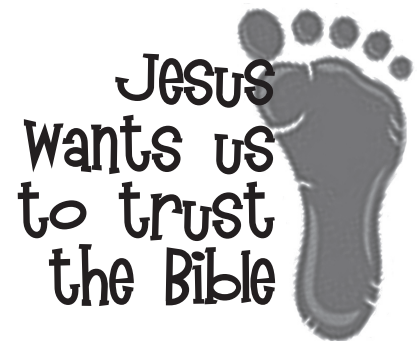
Leader's Guide for LESSON 7

For Kids

The Bible — It's The Truth!

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)



Say: Last week we learned that Jesus wants us to make choices that honor Him. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell about a choice you made this past week that honored God or honored your body or honored others.

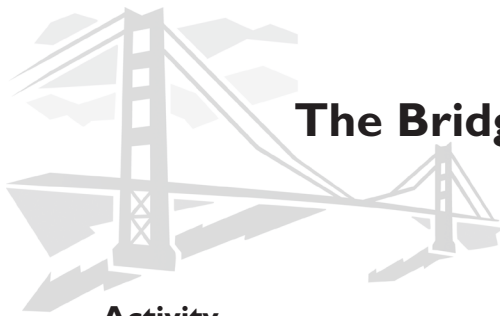
Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that the Bible is God's Word
- **Feel** confident that the Bible speaks to us today
- **Respond** by trusting the Bible as the Word of God

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Instruct participants to form a line down the center of the room facing you. Say: I will read a quotation to you. If you think the quote is from the Bible, jump toward the wall on your right. If you think the quote is not from the Bible, jump toward the wall on your left.

When everyone is ready read the first quote. Allow a few seconds for the participants to jump either right or left. Tell them where the quote is from. Instruct them to go back to the middle then read the next quote. Repeat the process moving quickly through the list.

“God helps those who help themselves.”

—Quoted in the 1736 edition of Benjamin Franklin’s *Poor Richard’s Almanac*, although there is some evidence it originally dates back to one of Aesop’s fables.

“Cleanliness is next to godliness.”

—First appeared in English in 1605, although it is probably a Hebrew proverb from the second century.

“Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.”

—1 Corinthians 13:6

“Absence makes the heart grow fonder.”

—First appeared in an English poem in 1602

“A leopard cannot change its spots.”

—Jeremiah 13:23

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)

“Gossip separates the best of friends.”

—Proverbs 16:28

“All that glitters is not gold.”

— Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*

“Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.”

— Romans 12:21

“A penny saved is a penny earned.”
—Benjamin Franklin, *Poor Richard's Almanac*

“No man is an island.”
—John Donne, *English poet and preacher, 1572-1631*

“The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.”
—Matthew 26:41

“Beauty is only skin deep.”
—Thomas Overbury, *English poet and essayist, 1613*

“You are what you eat.”
—Unknown, *but 20th century USA*

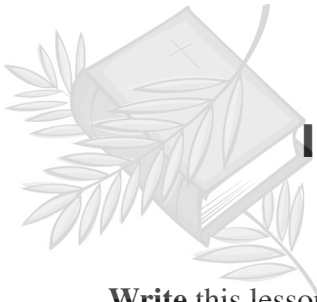
“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”
—Proverbs 15:1

Debrief

Ask: How did you decide if a quote was from the Bible? (Acknowledge answers.) How many of you looked to see where someone else was headed before you chose? (Acknowledge answers.) Were you always glad when you did that? (Acknowledge answers.)

Say: Sometimes we trust other people's knowledge of the Bible more than our own. It is important for us to know for ourselves what the Bible says.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus wants us to trust the Bible.

Activity

Treasure Hunt: Invite the family groups to choose a card and follow the directions given to find a treasure. Give 2-3 minutes for the family groups to complete this activity.

Debrief

Ask: What did your group find? How did it make you feel to follow directions, find the envelope and not find treasure? How is this exercise like real life? Why is it important for Christians to have the right directions?

Say: Today we are going to study about the Bible. Before we begin, let's learn some Bible facts.

Distribute the cards with Bible Facts. Invite volunteers to read their Bible Fact to the class and say "blank" for the word(s) that are highlighted. After each fact is read, ask the group if they can guess the answer. Point out that we can have confidence that the Bible we use today is accurate and reliable.

Ask a volunteer to **Read Acts 17:10, 11.**

Ask: Why did Paul praise the people in Berea? (They checked the Bible to find out if what Paul taught was correct.)

Say: The people who lived in Berea searched the Scriptures in order to find out what was true. People today search the Bible for the same reason. The Bible is our standard to know what is truth. Today we are going on a Bible hunt that will help us discover six reasons why we can trust the Bible.

You need

- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- A \$1.00 bill
- Envelopes – one per family
- Paper – one sheet per family
- Index cards with directions
- Index cards with Bible Facts

Ahead

Place the \$1.00 bill in one of the envelopes. Place a note in the other three envelopes that says, "Sorry." Seal all the envelopes and hide them in different locations in the room. Write one set of directions for finding each envelope. Hold the directions face down so they are hidden from view.

Write the following Bible Facts on Index Cards. Highlight the words in bold:

1. The Bible was written by about **40** different people.
2. The Bible was written over a period of **1,400** years.
3. The Bible was written in three languages: **Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic.**
4. When a scribe made a mistake in copying a book of the Old Testament, the entire scroll was **destroyed.**
5. The "Dead Sea Scrolls" discovered in 1947 have proved that the Bible we use today is the same as the Old Testament used by **Jesus.**

Write the Bible Discovery Scriptures on separate slips of paper for distribution to the families. Be sure to include the number reference.

Bible Discovery

Write on the board: Six Reasons to Trust the Bible

Divide the class into six groups keeping family members together. Distribute the six verses among the groups. Instruct them to read their verse then discuss what that verse tells us in regard to trusting the Bible. Allow 3-4 minutes to work. Call the class back together and work through all the texts, asking each group to read their verse and report on what they discovered. Write the points on the marker board as each family group reports.

1 Read Romans 15:4.

Write on the board: Gives us hope

2 Read 2 Timothy 3:15.

Write on the board: Makes us wise for salvation

3 Read 2 Timothy 3:16.

Write on the board: Completely inspired by God

4 Read 2 Peter 1:20, 21.

Write on the board: Holy Spirit guided Bible writers

5 Read Isaiah 40:8.

Write on the board: God's Word lasts forever

6 Read Psalm 119:11.

Write on the board: Gives us victory over sin

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What are the six reasons why we can trust the Bible?"
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Say: The Bible stories and Bible promises we read in the Old Testament were the very ones that Jesus read. If Jesus had confidence in the Bible, we can too. If Jesus trusted the Bible as truth, we can too.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Leader Share briefly a personal experience that helped you know you could trust the Bible.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.

My World (5-8 Minutes)

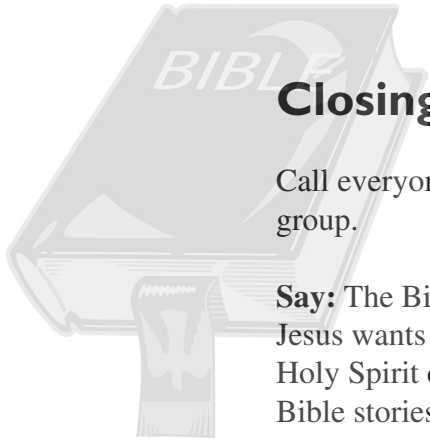
Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils





Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say: The Bible is God's word for you. Jesus wants you to trust the Bible. The Holy Spirit can talk to you personally in Bible stories and Bible promises.

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Ask: Did you think of ways to make the Bible important in your life?

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will invite you to share what you do to make the Bible important in your life.

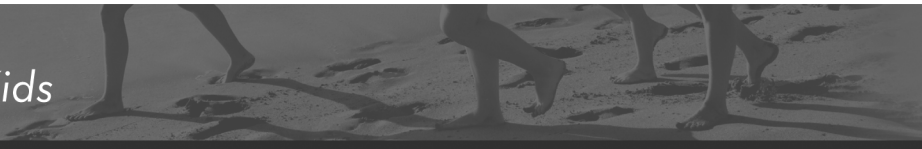
Say: Let's say the lesson *Footprint* together — **Jesus wants us to trust the Bible.**

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking God for taking care of the Bible so we can read it today
- asking God to help us make the Bible important in our families

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

FOOTPRINTS *For Kids*



My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to trust the Bible.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over them one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. The Bible helps us know what is true | Acts 17:10, 11 |
| 2. The Bible teaches us and gives us hope | Romans 15:4 |
| 3. The Bible help us know about salvation | 2 Timothy 3:15 |
| 4. All of the Bible is inspired by God | 2 Timothy 3:16 |
| 5. The Holy Spirit guided the writers of the Bible | 2 Peter 1:20, 21 |
| 6. God’s Word lasts forever | Isaiah 40:8 |
| 7. God’s Word gives us victory over sin | Psalm 119:11 |

3. **Ask:** Which point about the Bible is the most special to you?
4. Parents/mentors: **Share** briefly a time when the reading of the Bible was especially meaningful to you, and why you know that you can trust the Bible.
5. **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Would you like to choose to trust the Bible and make it special? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
6. **Pray:** Form a family prayer circle and ask Jesus to help you trust His word and make it more important in your home.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. As a family rate the importance of the Bible in your home. Circle a number on the line below. Number 1 is “not important” and number 10 is “very important.”

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not					Very				
Important					Important				

2. **Brainstorm** for ways that you can make the Bible more important.

(Examples: memorize a special verse or chapter and repeat it together regularly as a family; copy a verse on special paper, illustrate it, mount and frame it, hang it in a prominent place; pick a favorite song about the Bible to sing together or compose a song based upon a Bible text; make and send a card to encourage someone that includes a Bible promise; once a week share with someone else what you are learning from the Bible during your T.A.G.)

3. Parents/mentors: **Share** one thing that you will do this week to make the Bible more important in your life.
4. **Ask:** What would you like to do this week to make the Bible more important in your life?

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share what you did to make the Bible more important in your life.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share something special you have experienced in your relationship with one of the members of the Godhead: Father, Son and Spirit. What difference does it make in your life to understand that God is the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?

The Bible — It's The Truth!

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 7

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Acts 17:11

Activity: Choose a name for Jesus, such as Emmanuel, or Son of God. Using a concordance, search the scriptures for references to that name.

For Discussion: Why were the Bereans considered noble? How can you know what to place your trust in?

Prayer Point: Thank God for preserving His Word through the years and for giving us His truth to place our trust in.

Choice Two

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40; Isaiah 53

Activity: Make a list of all the things in Isaiah 53 that you see fulfilled in Jesus' life.

For Discussion: Do you think Isaiah had any idea what he was writing about? Do you think Jesus knew that Isaiah's words were written about Him? What would you have thought if you had been the Ethiopian and Philip had explained the meaning of Isaiah 53 to you? Does this chapter help you believe in the Bible more? Why?

Prayer Point: Thank God for using the Scriptures to tell us about Jesus long before He was born on Earth and for helping us to know that He is the Messiah who had been promised.

Choice Three

Scripture: Psalm 22; John 19:24, 28, 36, 37

Activity: Compare Psalm 22 with John chapter 19. How many prophecies do you see fulfilled?

For Discussion: How well do you think John knew the scriptures? Would it have been possible for him to make the connection between the events in John 19 and Psalm 22 if he didn't know what Psalm 22 said? Why is it important for you to know what the Bible says?

Prayer Point: Ask God to help you make the study of His Word a priority in your life.

Choice Four

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16

Activity: Using your best handwriting and any fancy pens you might have, write this verse on a piece of heavy paper. Decorate it with glitter, fancy scissors or anything else you might have and put it on the refrigerator or someplace where you will see it often.

For discussion: Colby, a fifth-grader, told about an encounter he had with a friend. “One time a boy named Kevin visited my house. He saw a Bible and asked me what it was. I said, ‘That’s the book with all the texts in it – the book about a long time ago. It tells about Jesus and how he died for us.’ Then I gave him a Bible.” Do you know anybody who has never seen a Bible? Would you have answered Kevin the same way Colby did? What would you have said or done?

Prayer Point: Ask God to send someone to you who needs to know about His Word. Ask Him to give you the words to say to that person.

Choice Five

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-10

Activity: Write down three things that Satan tempts you to do on a regular basis. (Fight with your siblings? Disobey your parents? Watch junk on TV?)

For discussion: How did Jesus know how to respond to Satan? Do you know how to answer your temptations with Scripture? If not, find texts that can help you know what to do in those situations.

Prayer Point: Ask God to make you eager to search the Scriptures so you will be able to answer temptation with Scripture, like Jesus did.

FOOTPRINTS

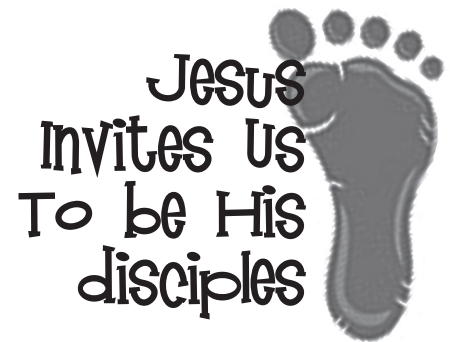
Leader's Guide for LESSON 8

For Kids

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)



Say: Last week we learned that Jesus wants us to trust the Bible. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did this past week to make the Bible important.

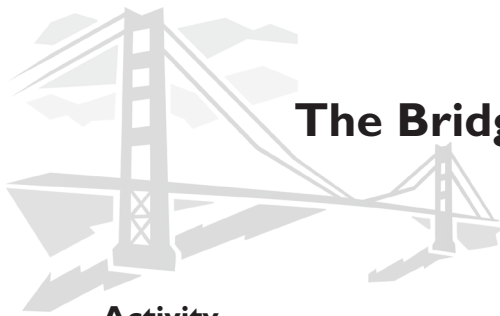
Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all one God
- **Feel** confident in trusting the Holy Spirit as their Helper
- **Respond** by praising the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day to love Jesus and bring others to Him.



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Give one length of each color yarn (3 strands) and two pencils to each family group. Instruct them to have two people stand facing each other, holding opposite ends of the three different colored pieces of yarn. Each is to tie their ends of yarn together around a pencil then twist the pencil in a clockwise direction. When the yarn is tightly twisted, an adult pinches the center point of the twisted yarn. Keeping the yarn taut, the two holding the pencils bring their pencils together while keeping the twisted yarn stretched. The one holding the center slowly slackens the grip on the center of the yarn while taking hold of both pencils. As the tension in the yarn slackens, the two halves of the twisted yarn will wind around each other to form one cord. The pencils can then be removed.

Debrief

Ask: What happened to the three pieces of yarn? (They formed one cord.) Do you still see the three separate pieces? (Yes.) How does this activity illustrate the three members that make up our God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit? (Acknowledge answers.)

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.

You need

- Yarn in three different colors
- Pencils

Ahead

Cut the yarn into 36-inch lengths.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus wants us to know the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Activity

Say: The word *Trinity* is not found in the Bible, but we use this word to describe God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Divide the class into three groups giving each group one Bible Verse Card. Instruct them to read their Bible verses and create a short skit depicting the event described in their verses. Allow 2-3 minutes for reading and planning. Have each group present then ask the class what event is being portrayed

Debrief

Ask: How do we know there are three members of the Trinity? (The Bible clearly teaches that there are God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.)

You need

- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Write the following verses on separate slips of paper for distribution during the Activity: Genesis 1:1, 2, 26; Matthew 3:16, 17; Matthew 28:19, 20. Write the Bible Discovery verses on separate slips of paper for distribution to the families. Do **not** put reference numbers on them.

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called on. After each Scripture is read ask the class to identify which member of the Trinity it describes. Write the role under the correct name. Write the following on the marker board leaving space between each one to write the summary points as listed below.

Write on the board: God the Father

Write on the board: God the Son

Write on the board: God the Holy Spirit

Say: Deuteronomy 6:4 says, “The LORD our God is One.” Just as the three strands of yarn we used made one cord, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit make One God. Even though this is difficult for us to understand, we do know that each member of the Trinity has a different job to do in relating to us as human beings. Today we are going to look at the different roles each One has.

God the Father texts:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Psalm 145:15, 16 | Write on the board: Gives life to every living thing |
| 2. John 3:16, 17 | Write on the board: Gave His Son to save the world |
| 3. Psalm 46:1 | Write on the board: Helps us when we are in trouble |

God the Son texts:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. Romans 5:8 | Write on the board: Gave His life for us |
| 2. Luke 5:20-24 | Write on the board: Forgives our sins |
| 3. John 14:2, 3 | Write on the board: Is coming soon to take us to heaven |

God the Holy Spirit texts:

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. 2 Peter 1:21 | Write on the board: Inspired those who wrote the Bible |
| 2. John 16:8 | Write on the board: Convicts people about sin |
| 3. John 16:13 | Write on the board: Guides us into all truth |
| 4. Romans 8:26 | Write on the board: Helps us pray |

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, “What is the role of God the Father? ...God the Son? ...God the Holy Spirit?”
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Activity

Instruct everyone to stand in a straight line and close their eyes. Wave a piece of cardboard or turn on the fan and let it blow across the back of each person. After you have hidden the cardboard/fan, call for all to open their eyes.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils
- A small electric fan or large piece of cardboard.

Debrief

Ask: What did you feel? Where did it come from? How do you know? What size was the cardboard/fan? (Acknowledge answers.) Bring out the cardboard/fan and show it to the class. Is this what you thought created that air movement? In what ways is God like the wind? (You can't see God, but you can feel Him.)

Leader Share briefly how knowing and understanding the Trinity has made a difference in your life.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



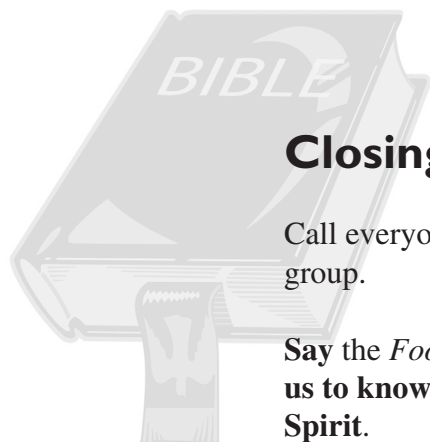
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to know the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Ask: Did you think of an idea to try this week to help you better understand the members of the Trinity?

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will invite you to share the idea you used to help you better understand God the Father or God the Son or God the Holy Spirit.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit for meeting all our needs

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to know the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** your child the points made in this lesson by going over them one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

1. God is ONE	Deuteronomy 6:4
2. There are three members of the Trinity	Genesis 1:1, 2, 26 Matthew 3:16, 17 Matthew 28:19, 20
3. The members of the Trinity have different roles:	
God the Father	
Sustains all life on earth.....	Psalm 145:15, 16
Gave His Son to save the world	John 3:16, 17
Helps us when we are in trouble	Psalm 46:1
God the Son	
Gave His life for us	Romans 5:8
Forgives our sins	Luke 5:20-24
Is coming soon to take us to heaven	John 14:2, 3
God the Holy Spirit	
Inspired those who wrote the Bible	1 Peter 1:21
Convicts people about sin	John 16:8
Guides us into all truth	John 16:13
Helps us pray	Romans 8:26

3. Parents/mentors: **Share** briefly something special you have experienced in your relationship with one of the members of the Godhead: Father, Son or Holy Spirit. Share the difference it makes in your life to understand the Bible truth about the Trinity.
4. **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Would you like to know each member of the Trinity better? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray:** Form a family prayer circle and ask God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ and through the power of Holy Spirit to help you understand and experience each member of the Trinity more fully.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Ask:** Which member of the Trinity do you find it easiest to understand? Why do you think this is so?
2. **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over them. Refer to the summary sheet and **Ask:** What could you do this week to connect to the other members of the Trinity? **Brainstorm** for ideas to help connect with and understand each member of the Trinity. **Select** one idea from your chart to do as a family this week. Circle it.

Ideas to know God the Father: (Search the Bible for specific characteristics of the Father; spend time in nature talking to the Father, etc.)

Ideas to know God the Son: (Search the New Testament for things Jesus did; Make a list of the names of Jesus, etc.)

Ideas to know God the Holy Spirit: (Search for texts about the work of the Holy Spirit; make a list of words to describe the Holy Spirit such as wind, light, etc.)

3. **Ask:** Why do you think it is important for us to understand each Person in the Trinity?

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share the idea you used to help you better understand God the Father or God the Son or God the Holy Spirit.

Next week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to briefly share: 1) why it is important to take care of our natural world, 2) an experience you have had with your family that was meaningful, and 3) a time when the Sabbath was a special delight to you.

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Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 8

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:12

Activity: Make a list of five things you would like to know about God.

For Discussion: Michael, a fifth-grader, shared this: “One day my friend Ray asked me where God lived before He created Heaven. I told him that I didn’t know and he said, “That’s ok.””

How do you feel when you have questions about God that nobody can answer? Do you ask your friends questions about God? Why or why not? “I don’t know” is the perfect thing to say when you really don’t know the answer to a question. What else could Michael have said to his friend that would have been helpful?

Prayer Point: Confess to God that sometimes it’s frustrating when you don’t know everything about Him. Thank Him for revealing enough about Himself for our salvation.

Choice Two

Scripture: Matthew 3:16, 17

Activity: Experiment with ice, water and steam. What happens when you mix them? Make a list of ways that ice, water and steam are like the Trinity. Which is most like whom? Why?

For Discussion: Do the three persons of the Godhead appear more often in the Bible together or apart? Why do you think that is so? Couldn’t God have done everything in one person? Why or why not?

Prayer Point: Ask God to help you understand Him more clearly. Ask Him to help you tune in to the differences in His persons and to help you love Him more.

Choice Three

Scripture: Matthew 28:19, 20

Activity: Use a concordance to help you look up the words you brainstormed during this lesson.

For Discussion: What are you learning about the Trinity? What would you still like to know? With whom can you share what you are learning?

Prayer Point: Pray about one of the things you would like to know about God. Ask Him to lead you to the answer.

Choice Four

Scripture: Psalm 19:1-3

Activity: Spend time with your mentor in a quiet place out in nature under the stars. Identify things you see, hear, smell and feel.

For discussion: In what way are these things different at night? Example: The stars are always in the sky but in the daytime we do not see them. In what ways does this remind you of God?

Prayer Point: Praise God for His creation and for what it shows us of Him.

Choice Five

Scripture: John 16:13

Activity: Talk with your family about one or more ways the Holy Spirit has guided you or someone in your family into truth.

For discussion: Did you know you were outside of truth at the time? How did the Holy Spirit guide you? What has the result been?

Prayer Point: Thank God for helping you understand the truth about the Trinity. Ask Him to give you the opportunity to share your faith with at least one person this week.

FOOTPRINTS

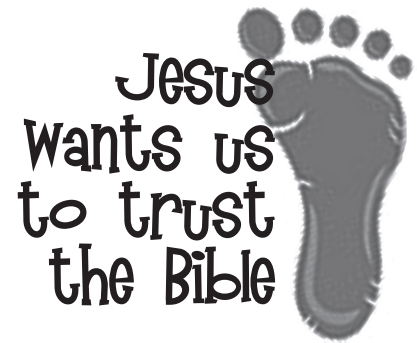
Leader's Guide for LESSON 9

For Kids

Creation, Family and Sabbath

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)



Say: Last week we learned that Jesus wants us to know each member of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did this past week to better understand the Father, the Son or the Holy Spirit.

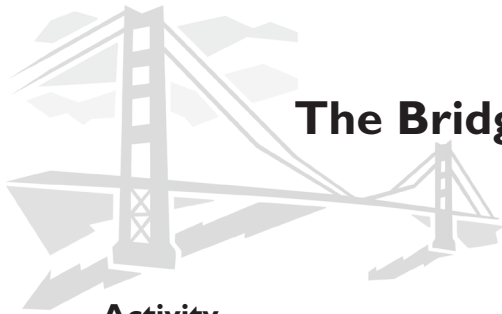
Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that God created the world, the family and the Sabbath as gifts for them
- **Feel** thankful for the gifts God gave at Creation
- **Respond** by placing value on these gifts from God

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to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Divide the class into groups of 5-7 people. Instruct each group to make a “machine” that 1) uses the body of each person 2) moves and 3) has a rest cycle. Allow time to plan and practice then have each group demonstrate their “machine” for the whole class. Invite the whole group to give affirmation to the small group presenting their “machine.”

Debrief

Ask: How well did your machines work? (Acknowledge answers.) Why is it important for machines to have a rest cycle? (So they can work longer.) How would you compare this activity with God’s creation of the world? (Acknowledge answers.)

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
**Creation, the family and the Sabbath
 are God's gifts to us.**

Activity

Ask a volunteer to be the narrator. Divide the class into seven groups (there can be one individual in a group). Assign each group one of the days of Creation to act out as the narrator reads. Allow 2-3 minutes to plan the action.

Narrator

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was shapeless, empty, dark and wet. And the Holy Spirit floated over the waters. [Pause]

On the first day God said, "Let there be light." And there was light –good light. And the evening and morning marked the first day. [Pause]

On the second day God said, "Let the waters separate — some into oceans and some into the atmosphere." And it was so; and it was good — earth and sky — the second day. [Pause]

On the third day God said, "Let the water of the ocean separate to one place so the dry land appears." And it was so; and it was good — land and seas. And God said, "Let vegetation appear, seed-growing plants and trees of various kinds." And it was so; and it was good — the earth covered with trees, flowers, and every kind of plant — the third day. [Pause]

On the fourth day God said, "Let there be lights in the sky to mark day and night and the various seasons." And it was so; and it was good — two great lights, the sun to make the day and the moon to make the night — along with all the stars — the fourth day. [Pause]

On the fifth day God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fill the sky." And it was so; and it was good — the seas and skies filled with moving creatures. [Pause]

You need

- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- One photocopy of the narration

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution to the families. Be sure to include the number reference.

On the sixth day God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures of all kinds.” And it was so; and it was good. Cats and dogs; lions and bears — every animal imaginable, but not finished yet. So God said, “Let us make people, a first man and a first woman — let them be like us. But this time God didn’t just speak. He formed the man from the earth and the woman from his rib. God blessed them and told them to have children and fill the earth. [Pause]

On the seventh day God had finished His work of creating a new world; so He rested. And God blessed the Sabbath day and made it special because on the seventh day He had rested from his work of creating a new world.

Debrief

Say: God made a lot of things for you and me at Creation, but these things can be summed up as just three kinds of gifts.

Ask: Can you think what they are? (Acknowledge answers.)

Write on the board: (Leave space under each one to write the points as you go through the study.)

The gift of creation
The gift of the family
The gift of the Sabbath.

Bible Discovery

Say: Let's fill in the first section of our list by using our narrative story which is found in Genesis 1 and 2.

1 Ask: How did our world begin and how long did it take? (God made our world in six days.)

Write on the board (under "The gift of creation"): God created the world in six days.

Ask: What did things look like before God began His work of creating? (The earth was dark and empty.)

Write on the board (under "The gift of creation"): The earth was dark and empty

Ask: What does the Bible say God did to create things like light and birds?
(God spoke to create.)

Ask: What did God do differently when He created people? (God formed people with His own hands and breathed life into them.)

Write on the board (under "The gift of creation"): God created the world by speaking and by forming with His own hands

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called on

2 Read Genesis 2:18. Why did God create the family? (God knew it was not good for people to be alone; He made people social – wanting to be with others.)

Write on the board (under "The gift of family"): People need people

3 Read Genesis 1:28. What does "be fruitful and increase in number" mean? (Have children.)

Write on the board (under "The gift of family"): God wants families to have children

4 Read Genesis 2:24. What three instructions did God give for establishing marriage? (Leave father and mother, be united to spouse, become one.) God's plan is for marriage to last a lifetime!

Write on the board (under "The gift of family"): Marriage means leaving parents and becoming one with your spouse

5 Read Genesis 2:2, 3. What three things did God do on the seventh day to make it different from other days? (Rested, blessed it, made it holy.)

Write on the board (under "The gift of Sabbath"): God rested, blessed the Sabbath and made it a holy day

6 Read Exodus 20:8-11. What word did God use to show the importance of the Sabbath? (Remember.)

Write on the board (under “The gift of Sabbath”): Remember the Sabbath day

What guideline has God given for making Sabbath a special day? (Don’t do your regular kind of work on Sabbath.)

Write on the board (under “The gift of Sabbath”): Do not work

7 Read Isaiah 58:13, 14. What guideline has God given us in this Scripture for making the Sabbath a special day? (Call it a delight; honor it; don’t do as you please.)

Say: This means that on Sabbath we don’t do our “own thing” but focus on God

What does God want the Sabbath to be for us? (Delight.) What do you think “delight” means? (Something we really enjoy.)

Write on the board (under “The gift of Sabbath”): Make the Sabbath a special day

8 Read Isaiah 66:22, 23. This passage describes a time when God will make a new heaven and a new earth. What will all people do on each Sabbath? (Come before God to worship Him.)

Write on the board (under “The gift of Sabbath”): We will celebrate Sabbath in the new earth

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, “Tell me about God’s gift of creation... His gift of family... His gift of Sabbath.”
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Say: Jesus has given us special gifts. It's a wonderful thing to know that you were created in the image of a loving God.

Family is a precious gift that Jesus intended to last a lifetime. The Sabbath is a beneficial gift Jesus has given not only for your physical health, but also as a special day to connect with Him and with family and friends. Jesus wants us to value these gifts – to make them important in our lives.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Leader Share briefly an experience that helped you value creation or your family or the Sabbath. Share how you feel about these special gifts that God has given you.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



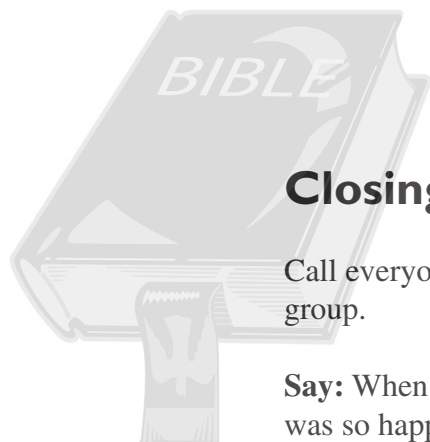
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say: When Jesus created our world, He was so happy to present it as a gift to Adam and Eve our first parents. He wants us to enjoy nature. Jesus also wants us to enjoy our families and the Sabbath.

Ask: Did you think of something specific you can do this week to show Jesus that you appreciate the gifts He has given of creation, family or Sabbath?

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will invite you to share what you did this coming week to show Jesus that you appreciate these special gifts He has given you.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Creation, our family and the Sabbath are God's gifts to us.**

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking God for His gifts of creation, our families and the Sabbath
- asking God to help us value these gifts

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Creation, our family and the Sabbath are God’s gifts to us.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over them one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

1. The gift of creation

God created the world in six days Genesis 1
 The earth was dark and empty Genesis 1:2
 God used two methods to create:
 speaking and forming with His hands Genesis 1:7
 Psalm 33:6, 9

2. The gift of family

God created family because people
 are social and need other people Genesis 2:18
 God wants families to have children..... Genesis 1:28
 Marriage is God’s plan – two people leave their
 parents, are united to each other and become one Genesis 2:24

3. The gift of the Sabbath

God rested from His work of creating on the Sabbath,
 blessed the seventh day and made it holy Genesis 2:2, 3
 God asked us to remember the Sabbath Exodus 20:8-11
 God commanded us to not work on the Sabbath Exodus 20:10
 God wants the Sabbath to be a very special day Isaiah 58:13
 We will celebrate the Sabbath in the new earth..... Isaiah 66:22, 23

3. Parents/mentors: **Share** briefly 1) why you think it is important to take care of our natural world, 2) an experience you have had with your family that was meaningful and memorable, 3) a time when the Sabbath was a special delight to you. Explain why you value these gifts God has given to you.
4. **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Would you like to show Jesus that you appreciate His gifts of creation, family and Sabbath? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray:** Form a family prayer circle and thank Jesus for the gifts of creation, family, and Sabbath. Ask Him to help you value each of these important in your home.

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 to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Ask:** Are there specific things we can do as a family to place more value on God's gifts to us? **Brainstorm** for ideas in each area

Value our natural world:

Value each person in our family:

Value family time:

Make Sabbath a very special day:

2. **Ask:** Which of these areas do you think our family needs to work on the most? Which area do you think you need to work on as an individual?
3. Parents/mentors **Share** one specific thing that you will do this coming week to show Jesus that you appreciate creation or your family or the Sabbath. **Ask:** What do you think Jesus wants you to do to show you appreciate His gifts?
4. **Pray** as a family circle thanking God for His gifts of our world, your family and the Sabbath. Ask God to help you with the specific things you have chosen to do.

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share what you did this coming week to show Jesus that you appreciate these special gifts He has given you.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share an experience you have had in honoring God's law and the difference His law has made in your life.

Creation, Family and Sabbath

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 9

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Psalm 8

Activity: Based on today's Scripture reading, make a list of three things for which you specifically want to praise God.

For Discussion: A sixth-grader named Hannah said, "I like walking in nature because I can explore God's beautiful creation. One Sabbath my family and I went to Lula Lake. We went down to the bottom of a waterfall, and that was neat because I had never seen one. Next we hiked up to a bluff where we could see everything at a distance, and that reminded me of God's creation and how big the world is!"

Share with your family some of your special memories of being out in nature.

Prayer Point: Praise God for His glorious creation. Compare yourself to His amazing power and ask God if there is anything you need to confess.

Choice Two

Scripture: Mark 2:23-28

Activity: Decorate a monthly calendar to honor God. Decorate the Saturday column in a special way and write in the word *Sabbath*. In those spaces write in something you will do each Sabbath to make the day special.

For Discussion: What did Jesus mean when He said "Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath?" Why did the way Jesus celebrated Sabbath conflict with what the religious rulers taught?

Prayer Point: Thank God for the awesome gift of the Sabbath. Ask Him to help you celebrate the day in a way that brings honor and glory to Him.

Choice Three

Scripture: Genesis 2:2, 3; Exodus 20:11

Activity: Compare these two passages of scripture. Make a list of the similarities and the differences. Write all the verbs in your fanciest handwriting. Look up "bless" and "holy" in the dictionary.

For Discussion: What do you notice? What do we acknowledge when we celebrate the Sabbath? Why is that important?

Prayer Point: Ask God to show you an opportunity to use the Sabbath to do good.

Choice Four

Scripture: Matthew 12:9-13

Activity: Plan an activity for next Sabbath that fits with Jesus' instruction to do good on the Sabbath.

For discussion: What is the difference between doing good on the Sabbath and working on the Sabbath? Does your family spend more time resting on Sabbath or doing good? Why do you think that is?

Prayer Point: Ask God to show you an opportunity to use the Sabbath to do good.

Choice Five

Scripture: Psalm 127:3-5

Activity: Draw a picture of your family, using the quiver and arrow metaphor David used in Psalm 127.

For discussion: Do you think of yourself as a reward from God? How does that make you feel about yourself? Why do you think David compared children to arrows? How do you feel about the idea of growing up, getting married and having children of your own?

Prayer Point: Tell Jesus how you feel about being called a reward from Him. Do you live your life as if you were a reward from God? Is there anything you need to confess to Him?

Choice Six

Scripture: Genesis 2:24

Activity: Make a list of seven married couples you know. Write their names on seven consecutive days on a calendar.

For discussion: Why did God give couples the instructions He did in Genesis 2? Do you see them as a gift or as restrictions? Why?

Prayer Point: Each day, pray for one of the couples whose names you have written on the calendar. Ask God to help them to love each other the way He intended and to keep their marriage healthy and happy.

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 10

For Kids

God's Law

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)



Say: Last week we learned that Creation, our family and the Sabbath are God's gifts to us. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did this past week to show Jesus that you appreciate the gifts of Creation, family and Sabbath.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that God's law shows His love for us
- **Feel** joy in honoring and obeying God's law
- **Respond** by asking God to help them obey His law out of love for Him

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to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Instruct participants to stand together in the center of the room as you read the following laws. Participants are to quickly decide whether or not the law is a real law. Those who believe the law is real jump to the right side of the room. Those who think it is made-up jump to the left. After all the laws have been read share that, as strange as it may seem, all the laws are real!

True & False

1. It is against the law to lick a toad in Los Angeles.
2. In Normal, Illinois, it is against the law to make faces at a dog.
3. In Delaware, it is against the law to whisper in church.
4. In New Orleans, Louisiana, you can't tie an alligator to a fire hydrant.
5. It is against the law to step out of an airplane while it's in the air over Maine.
6. You can't own a smelly dog in Galesburg, Illinois.
7. You can't park in front of Dunkin Donuts in South Berwick, Maine.
8. In Owenstown, Kentucky, a woman can't buy a hat without her husband's permission.
9. In Portland, Maine, your shoelaces have to be tied while walking down the street.
10. Massachusetts has a law against snoring unless all the bedroom windows are closed and locked.
11. In Ohio, you can't be arrested on Sunday or on the fourth of July.
12. In Austin, Texas, it is against the law to carry wire cutters in your pocket.

Debrief

Ask: Who guessed that all of these are real laws on the books in these states? Do some of them seem silly? Which ones? (Acknowledge answers) There must be millions of man-made laws. How many do we find in God's perfect law? (10) Only 10, few enough for us all to remember.

Ask a volunteer to **read Psalm 119:18**.

Say: Today/tonight we want to open our eyes to God's law to see the wonderful things there.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Keeping God's law shows our love for Jesus.

Activity

Read the Ten Commandments from Exodus 20:2-17 as a group. Use whatever version the participants may have. Take turns reading verse by verse, one person reading from each family group. Don't omit the beginning of the law, "I am the Lord your God...". The NIV clearly shows the beginning of each commandment. In case some versions do not, ask at the end of each commandment, "What commandment was that?" (Acknowledge answers.) Ask "What is that law about?" (Acknowledge answers.)

While students keep their Bibles open to Exodus 20, **randomly** select a commandment from the list below and read the clues provided. Allow students to raise their hand or jump to their feet at any time when they think they know which commandment the clues identify. They should answer with the first few words of the commandment and the number if they know it. **Finish reading the clues before moving to the next law.** Keep this moving quickly and cover all 10 commandments.

Commandment # 1: You shall have no other gods before me.

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment focuses on your relationship with God.
3. This commandment gives God His rightful place in your life.
4. This commandment tells you to put God first in your life.

Commandment # 2: Do not make any idols.

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment focuses on your relationship with God.
3. In this commandment, God wants you to understand that He is greater than the things He has created.
4. In this commandment, God tells you He doesn't want to share your worship with anything else alive or made of wood or stone.

You need

- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution to the families. Be sure to include the number reference.

Commandment # 3: Do not misuse God's name.

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment focuses on respect and loyalty for God.
3. This is one of only two commandments that state a punishment for breaking it.
4. This commandment tells you to be careful with God's name.

Commandment # 4: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment focuses on your relationship with God and with others.
3. This commandment involves your time.
4. This commandment extends to those in your family, to your helpers and even to your animals.

Commandment # 5: Honor your father and your mother.

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment deals with your love and concern for others.
3. This is one of two commandments that involve family relationships.
4. This is the only commandment with a promise.

Commandment # 6: You shall not murder.

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment deals with your love and concern for others.
3. This commandment tells us that each person has the same value before God.
4. In this commandment God tells us how much He values life.

Commandment # 7: You shall not commit adultery.

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment deals with your relationship with one other person.
3. This commandment teaches us that families are important to God.
4. This commandment shows that God intends for husbands and wives to love each other in a special way that they don't share with anyone else.

Commandment # 8: You shall not steal.

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment deals with your love and concern for others.
3. This commandment asks us to respect the gifts that God has given to others.
4. This commandment tells us not to take things that don't belong to us.

Commandment # 9: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This commandment deals with your love and concern for others.
3. This commandment is designed to keep others from being hurt by what we say.
4. This commandment asks us to be committed to the truth.

Commandment # 10: You shall not covet.

Clues:

1. God gave you this commandment for your good and protection.
2. This is a commandment against a feeling.
3. In this commandment, God asks you to be satisfied and content with what He has already given you.
4. This commandment is a warning against wanting something you can't have.

Debrief

Ask: What do all of the Ten Commandments have in common? (God gave them for our good and protection.)

Bible Discovery

Ask the participants to find Psalm 119. Use the following to explain why Psalm 119 is a very special chapter in the Bible:

- David wrote it
- It is the longest chapter in the Bible
- It is divided into 22 sections — 1 for each of the 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet
- Each section has 8 verses for a total of 176 verses.
- In each section the first word in each line begins with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet making it easier to memorize.
- This entire Psalm is about valuing God’s law.
- Many words are used as synonyms (words with similar/same meanings) for the word law — word, commands, commandments, precepts, way, statutes.

Write on the board: God’s law...

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called on.

1 Read Psalm 119:152. How long will God’s law last? (Forever.) Do you think this may be why God wrote the Ten Commandments on stone? (Acknowledge answers.)

Write on the board: ... will last forever.

2 Read Psalm 119:2. What does this verse say will make people “blessed” or “happy?” (Keeping His statutes and seeking Him with all their heart.)

Write on the board: brings happiness

3 Read Psalm 119:4. What does God expect us to do about His precepts? (Fully obey them.)

Write on the board: ... is to be fully obeyed

4 Read Psalm 119:165. What do people who love God’s law have? (Great peace.)

Write on the board: brings great peace

5 Read Romans 7:7. What does the law show us? (What sin is.)

Write on the board: ... shows us what sin is

6 Read Galatians 3:24. What does this verse say the law does for us? (It leads us to Jesus so we can be justified.)

Write on the board: ... leads us to Jesus

7 Read John 14:15. What reason for obeying Jesus’ commands is given in this verse? (Love for Jesus.)

Write on the board: ... shows that we love Jesus

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking “Tell me about God’s law, it...”
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly a time when you knew that keeping God's law protected you or gave you a blessing.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



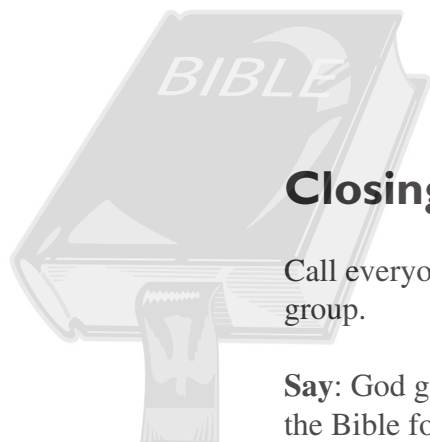
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time "warning" to the other families such as, "Please finish in three more minutes." Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say: God gave us His law as recorded in the Bible for our good and our protection because He loves us. When we obey His law we love Him back.

You need

- Three pennies for each participant
- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Ask: Did you select a *Mentoring Moments* to do this week?

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will invite you to share your Mentoring Moment and what you learned about God's law. Please bring your activity to show us.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Keeping God's law shows our love for Jesus.**

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for His law and asking Him to help us keep His commandments out of love for Him

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Keeping God’s law shows our love for Jesus.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

God’s Ten Commandments are listed in Exodus 20:1-17

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. God’s law will last forever | Psalm 119:152 |
| 2. God’s law brings happiness..... | Psalm 119:2 |
| 3. God’s law is to be fully obeyed | Psalm 119:4 |
| 4. God’s law brings great peace | Psalm 119:165 |
| 5. God’s law shows us what sin is | Romans 7:7 |
| 6. God’s law leads us to Jesus..... | Galatians 3:24 |
| 7. Keeping God’s law shows that we love Jesus | John 14:15 |

3. Use the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 to **review** each of them. **Ask:** Is there one particular law that is hard for you to obey? What do you think Jesus wants you to do about obeying His law?
4. Parents/mentors: **Share** briefly a personal experience when keeping God’s law brought good or protection to you or others.
5. **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Do you choose to keep all of God’s commandments because you love Jesus? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. **Say:** When we make the choice to obey, Jesus helps us do it. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
6. **Pray** as a family circle thanking God for His law and asking Him to help you each obey His law.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Discuss** which commandments show our love for God (1-4) and which ones show our love for others (5-10).
2. **Say:** God gave us rules to obey because He loves us and knows that when we choose to live by His rules we will be safe and happy. When we obey God's rules we show that we love Him. **Ask:** Why do you think love is so important to God's law?
3. **Ask:** Have you ever done something wrong? We all have, haven't we? **Say:** When we've broken a rule at home or school or even one of God's 10 rules, that's when we need to remember Jesus. We need to remember that He still loves us, even when we choose to disobey Him. We need to remember that Jesus died on the Cross to forgive us for breaking His law. **Ask:** Do you need to ask Jesus to forgive you for breaking one of His laws? If your child answers "Yes," help him/her pray for forgiveness.
4. **Read** through the "Mentoring Moments" and choose one to do this week. Bring your activity to show the group next week.

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share your *Mentoring Moment* and what you learned about God's law. Please bring your activity to show us.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share an experience you have had when you saw the war between good and evil in action in your life or in the life of someone close to you. You will also be asked to share one way you want to stand boldly for Jesus.

God's Law

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 10

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:24

Activity: Make a list of synonyms for “protect.” Use a thesaurus if necessary.

For Discussion: What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments? Here’s what a group of students said.

Michael, age 12: “So that we know what’s right and wrong.”

Rebecca, age 12: “To protect us from evil.”

Greg, age 14: “They are to guide us through our lives, and they are the rules God wants us to follow.”

Anthony, age 11: “To keep us going in the right direction.”

Do you agree with any of these students? Who and why? What have you learned about the purpose of the Ten Commandments? How do the commandments protect us? Do the commandments always feel like protection to you?

Prayer Point: Thank God for giving us a set of instructions by which to live. If the commandments don’t always feel like protection, confess that to Him and ask Him to make you willing to obey Him.

Choice Two

Scripture: Ezekiel 36:26, 27

Activity: Go out into your yard or to a park and find a rock about the size of your fist, which would be about the size of your heart. Compare it to a meaty part of your body, like your thigh.

For Discussion: What does it mean to have a heart of stone? How would that be different from a heart of flesh? Why does God want to give you a new heart? What’s wrong with the heart you have now? What does it mean to have the Spirit move you?

Prayer Point: Confess to God the stoniness of your heart. Ask Him for the new heart He promises and thank Him for being willing to give you a new heart.

Choice Three

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-11

Activity: Rewrite and paraphrase each of the first four commandments, turning the negatives into positives and the positives into negatives. (The “shalls” should become “shall nots” and the “shall nots” should become “shalls.”)

For Discussion: How does looking at the commandments in reverse change their meaning? Is it harder or easier to apply them to your life this way? What do the first four commandments have in common? Which is the hardest for you?

Prayer point: Thank God for giving you an instruction manual for your life.

Choice Four

Scripture: Exodus 20:12-17

Activity: Rewrite and paraphrase each of the last six commandments like you did yesterday, turning the positives into negatives and the negatives into positives.

For discussion: Is it harder to think of these commandments as positives or negatives? What do these commandments have in common? Which is the hardest for you? Look at the first and the last commandments. What do they have in common?

Prayer Point: Confess to God your inability to keep His commandments. Thank Him for the new heart He has given you.

Choice Five

Scripture: Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8, 9

Activity: Write part or all of one or both of these texts in your neatest handwriting. Decorate your paper and hang it someplace where you will see it often. Sing “Amazing Grace” with your family.

For discussion: How does it feel to know that Jesus has already done everything necessary to save you and has given you salvation as a gift? How does it feel to know that you can’t be saved by keeping the law? What would it be like to be around someone who was perfect and could boast about their perfection?

Prayer Point: Confess to God your sinfulness and then thank Him for His amazing grace that has saved you from sin.

FOOTPRINTS

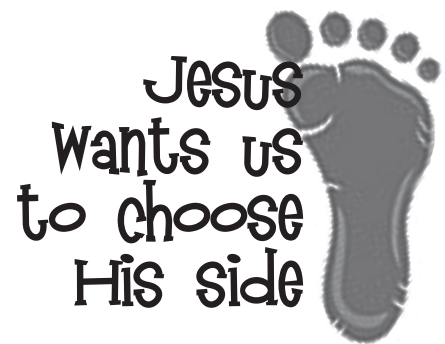
Leader's Guide for LESSON 11

For Kids

The War Between Jesus and Satan

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)



Say: Last week we learned that keeping God's law shows our love for Jesus. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did for your *Mentoring Moments* this past week and what you learned about God's law.

Use the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that there is a war between Jesus and Satan
- **Feel** secure in Jesus and His power
- **Respond** by choosing to stand on Jesus' side in the great controversy

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Invite the participants to divide into pairs children with children and adults with adults. **Say:** Today you will be engaged in a Thumb Wrestle War. Keep track of how many times you win. Allow 3-4 minutes. If you observe that partners are not evenly matched, call time and regroup partners.

* How to Thumb Wrestle

1. Both players place their thumbs in mid-air, facing one another. With the right hand fingertips, grab your opponent's right hand fingertips and clasp tightly together.
2. Start the game by politely bowing your thumbs. Touch thumb tips together and move them up and down to "bow" while saying together, "one, two, three, four, I declare a thumb war!"
3. Try to catch your opponent's thumb and pin it down to a count of 5 seconds

Debrief

Ask: Did everyone win at least one round? (Acknowledge the responses by inviting everyone to cheer for each other.) How is a Thumb Wrestle War like a real war? (There are opposing contestants; there can be only one winner; it can hurt.) How is it different? (It isn't important; the outcome doesn't matter; no one is seriously injured or killed.)

Say: Long before our world was created, there was a war in an unlikely place — heaven. This was the first war to ever happen, and it was between God and Satan. Unlike our Thumb Wrestle War the war in heaven is VERY important. In our lesson today we are going to discover what God did to win the war with Satan.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus wants us to choose His side.

Activity

Divide the participants into two groups. Invite one group to **Read Isaiah 14:12-14** aloud.

Ask: What do we learn about Lucifer from this passage? (He wanted to exalt himself and be above God; instead he was cast down.)

Invite the other group to **Read Philippians 2:5-8** aloud.

Ask: What do we learn about Jesus from the passage in Philippians? (He was exalted in heaven but humbled Himself to become human and die on the cross.)

Ask: According to these passages what is the difference between Satan and Jesus? (Acknowledge responses; Satan was selfish wanting to exalt himself; Jesus was unselfish and humbled Himself.)

Say: Satan wanted to exalt himself. He wanted to be above everyone else, including God. Use your body to describe what this would look like. If they need examples: stand with arms held up looking at others saying "Look at me!" or thump on chest and say "I'm the greatest!" Affirm each demonstration.

Say: Unlike Satan, Jesus was unselfish and willing to humble Himself. Use your body to describe what this would look like. If they need examples: kneel with head bowed or say "You go first!" or lay prostrate on the ground face down. Affirm each demonstration.

Write on the board: The Great Controversy between Jesus and Satan

You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution to the families. Be sure to include the number reference.

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families and instruct them to look up their verse and be prepared to read it to the class. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called.

1 Read Revelation 12:7-9. What happened in heaven? (There was war between Satan and Michael [Jesus' angelic name]; Satan lost.)

Write on the board: Satan started the war against God

2 Read Genesis 3:1-7. Who joined Satan in his war against God? (Adam & Eve.)

Write on the board: Adam and Eve joined the war

3 Read Romans 5:12. What happened because of Adam and Eve's choice? (Death came to all men [people].)

Write on the board: All people suffer and die because of this war

4 Read 1 Peter 5:8. How does the Bible describe Satan? (Our enemy, prowling around like a roaring lion.)

Write on the board: Satan wants to destroy us

5 Read John 3:16, 17. What did God do to rescue the human family from Satan's rule? (He sent Jesus to die for our sins.)

Write on the board: Jesus died to save us

6 Read Revelation 20:7-10. When will the great controversy between Jesus and Satan end? (When God destroys Satan.) **Read Revelation 21:1-4.** What will God do once Satan and sin has been destroyed? (Create a new heaven and new earth; remove all pain, sorrow and death.)

Write on the board: God will destroy Satan and end the war

7 Read 2 Chronicles 20:15. Why do we not need to be afraid? (Jesus is the One who fights the battle against Satan, not us). **Read Joshua 24:15.** What is our part in the great controversy? (Choose to stand on Jesus' side.)

Say: We don't need to be afraid of Satan because Jesus has already conquered him. We can chose to stand on Jesus' side and let Him fight Satan for us.

Write on the board: God fights Satan for us

Write on the board: We can choose to stand on Jesus' side

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What can you tell me about the great war between God and Satan?"
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly a personal experience of standing boldly for Jesus and the impact this has had on your relationship with Him **OR** share the story of someone you know or have read about.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



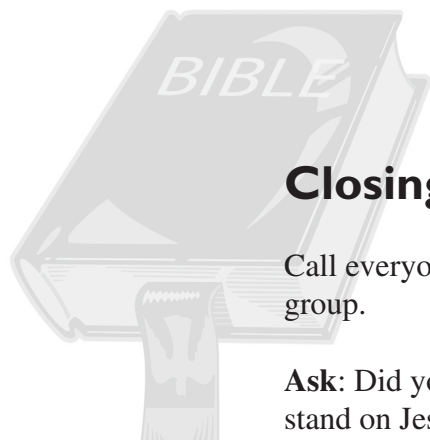
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Ask: Did you think of one way you can stand on Jesus' side?

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will invite you to share what you did to stand on Jesus' side in the Great War between Jesus and Satan or one thing you did to let Jesus fight for you.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to choose His side.**

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for fighting the battle against evil for each of you
- asking Him to help you take a bold stand for Him

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to choose His side.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over them one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

1. Satan started a war against God Revelation 12:7-9
2. Adam and Eve joined the war against God Genesis 3:1-7
3. All people suffer and die because of Adam and Eve’s choice..... Romans 5:12
4. Satan wants to destroy us 1 Peter 5:8
5. Jesus died to save us John 3:16, 17
6. God will finally destroy Satan and create a new earth Revelation 20:7-10; 21:1-4
7. Jesus fights Satan for us 2 Chronicles 20:15
8. We can choose to stand on Jesus’ side Joshua 24:15

3. Parents/mentors **Share** briefly an experience you have had when you saw the war between good and evil in action in your life or the life of someone close to you. How does it feel to know that Jesus is fighting for you?
4. Parents/mentors **Share** why you want to stand on Jesus’ side. **THE CHOICE** —
Ask: Do you want to stand on Jesus’ side in the Great War between Jesus and Satan? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,”
Say: It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** as a family circle thanking Jesus for fighting for you and asking Him to help you stand boldly on His side in the Great War between God and Satan.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Ask:** Do you ever feel afraid of Satan? What points in this lesson can help you not feel afraid of him?
2. **Ask:** Where do you see the battle between good and evil in your life? What things do you struggle with?
3. **Discuss** ways you can let Jesus fight for you when you have conflicts or struggles, such as pray to Him for wisdom or strength, claim a specific Bible promise, etc.

Ways I Can Let Jesus Fight for Me:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4. **Say:** Sometimes the battle between good and evil happens between people; for example two people have a fight with words or fists. Sometimes the battle between good and evil happens inside us; for example we struggle with a temptation to do something we know is wrong. **Brainstorm** for specific things you can do to stand boldly on Jesus' side, such as ask the Holy Spirit to help you say "No" to temptation; to step in if you see someone treated in an unfair way, etc.

Area of Conflict:

What I can do to stand boldly for Jesus:

1. Between me and another person	
2. Between other people I know	
3. Inside Me	

4. Parents/mentors **Share** one thing you will do to stand boldly on Jesus' side this coming week.
Ask: What would you like to do to stand on Jesus' side?

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share what you did to stand on Jesus' side in the Great War between Jesus and Satan or one thing you did to let Jesus fight for you.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share an experience when someone stood up for you and/or defended you.

The War Between Jesus and Satan

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 1

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Daniel 7:9, 10; Revelation 20:12; Revelation 3:5

Activity: If you have a baby book, take it out and look through it. What important things about you does it tell? What important things are not in it?

For Discussion: How are the accounts of the judgment in Daniel and Revelation similar? How are they different? What is the most important thing about the judgment?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for writing your name in the book of life.

Choice Two

Scripture: Romans 8:1

Activity: Find the list of court cases in the local newspaper. Of what have people been convicted? What are the punishments?

For Discussion: How does it feel to know that no matter what you have done, you will not be found guilty in the judgment if you claim Jesus' sacrifice for you? Does that give you permission to sin? (Read Romans 6:1-4 if you're not sure.) How do you think Satan feels about Romans 8:1?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for His immeasurable grace and for taking your place in the judgment.

Choice Three

Scripture: Isaiah 14:12-15

Activity: Draw a picture of the war in heaven and of Satan and his angels being thrown to earth.

For Discussion: Will Jesus be able to save Satan? Why or why not?

Prayer Point: Ask Jesus to keep your heart humble and teachable. Ask Him to tell you if pride is getting in the way of your relationship with Him.

Choice Four

Scripture: Hebrews 9:11, 12

Activity: Make a diagram of the sanctuary and its furniture. Draw Jesus standing in the most holy place with His blood as a sacrifice for your sins.

For discussion: What does it mean to you that Jesus has offered Himself as a sacrifice for your sins? Do you think the image would be more real if you had to place your hands on a lamb's head and confess your sins before you kill it? What does that act tell you about sin?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for dying in your place. Ask Him to help you always realize how terrible sin is and what awful consequences it has.

Choice Five

Scripture: Hebrews 4:16

Activity: Write today's scripture in your best handwriting. Make the word "confidence" look strong and bold. (Note: some Bible translations use the word "boldly" instead of "confidence.") Decorate the paper with fancy scissors, glitter, paper cutouts or anything else you have at home. Put it someplace where you will see it often. Memorize the verse.

For discussion: How many criminals do you think approach the judge with confidence? Why does the author of Hebrews tell us to approach the throne with confidence? How does it make you feel to know that you will receive mercy and find grace instead of condemnation when you come to God?

Prayer Point: Thank God for the mercy and grace He freely gives you. Thank Him for asking you to come to Him with confidence.

FOOTPRINTS

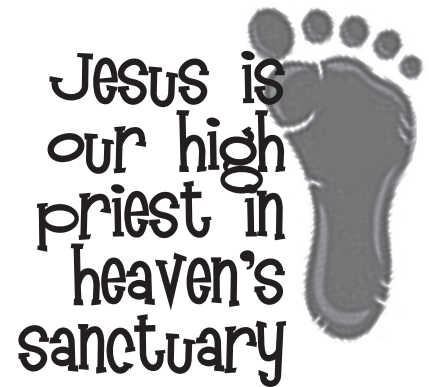
Leader's Guide for LESSON 12

For Kids

Jesus – Your High Priest in Heaven

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, “Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?” (Acknowledge all responses.)



Say: Last week we learned that there is a war between Jesus and Satan, and that Jesus wants us to choose His side. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did this past week to take a bold stand on Jesus' side or to let Jesus fight for you.

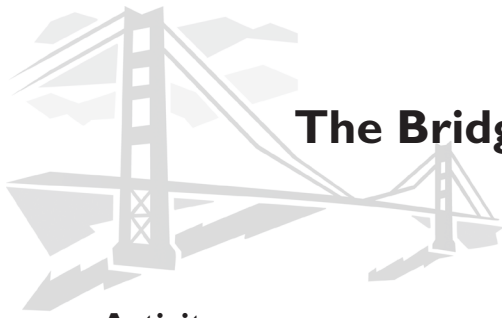
Use the “M.M.” ball or the “T.A.G.” ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home OR to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that Jesus is working for us as our high priest in heaven
- **Feel** confident that we can always come to God
- **Respond** by thanking Jesus for His work in heaven for us

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

You need

- Photocopies of the warning/traffic signs

Activity

Divide the participants into groups of 3-5. Hold the copies of the warning/traffic signs face down and invite one person from each group to select one. Instruct them to think of a way to communicate their symbol to the whole group. They can use body actions, but cannot talk. Allow a few minutes for planning then have each group communicate their symbol and have the whole group guess what the symbol is. After the symbol is guessed, ask what the symbol communicates.

Debrief

Ask: Why are symbols useful? (They communicate instructions or warnings as a picture so that everyone can understand, even people who can't read words.) What symbols do you think of when you think of Jesus? (Acknowledge answers: lamb, cross, etc.)

Say: Our lesson today is about a symbol God used to help us understand what Jesus did for us in the past and what He is doing for us right now in heaven.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board: **Jesus is our high priest in heaven's sanctuary.**

Activity

You will model this activity by marking a large sheet of poster board with the diagram of the sanctuary and gluing the larger pictures of the articles of furniture in the designated places as volunteers read about each article. Each family group will copy what you do by marking on their own smaller poster board and gluing their own smaller pictures of the articles of furniture.

Distribute the copies of the sanctuary furniture information to different volunteers to read.

Say: The earthly sanctuary that Jesus commanded Moses to build in Old Testament times was a replica of the sanctuary in heaven. God asked His people to build the sanctuary on earth so that He could dwell with them. Everything about the sanctuary was a symbol of Jesus.

Begin with number 1 and ask the volunteer to read the description to the class. Glue your picture of the article of furniture on your poster board in its correct location as shown on the Sanctuary Diagram. Allow time for the family groups to do the same on their poster boards. Continue until you have completed all six articles of furniture.

You need

- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- Copy of sanctuary furniture information
- Copies of sanctuary articles of furniture
- Poster board/markers

Ahead

Make a photocopy of the sanctuary furniture information and cut it apart so each article of furniture is on a separate sheet of paper. Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families as they arrive. Be sure to include the number reference.

Sanctuary Furniture Information

Article of Furniture: Description:

<p>1. Altar of Burnt Offering</p>	<p>Say: When an Israelite walked into the courtyard of the sanctuary the first thing he/she would see was the altar of burnt offering. All day long people who had sinned would bring a lamb to sacrifice. The person would press his weight upon the head of the lamb, confess his sins, then cut the lamb's throat. The lamb would then be placed upon the altar to burn up completely. Ask: How is this a symbol for what Jesus did for us? (Jesus is the lamb who died in our place.)</p>
<p>2. Bronze Laver</p>	<p>Say: The bronze laver was a large container for water. The priests used the water to wash their hands and feet before they entered the sanctuary barefoot. Ask: How is this a symbol for what Jesus did for us? (Jesus washed our sins away. He cleanses our hearts.)</p>
<p>3. Table of Shewbread</p>	<p>Say: The table of shewbread stood on the north side of the holy place. Twelve round loaves of bread were placed on this table at the beginning of each week. The priests would eat the old bread after it was replaced with new bread. Ask: How is this a symbol for what Jesus did for us? (Jesus is our "bread" – our spiritual food. We are to let Him become part of us spiritually just as the bread we eat becomes part of us physically.)</p>
<p>4. Lampstand</p>	<p>Say: The seven branched lampstand stood on the south side of the holy place. It was made of pure gold and was the only source of light for the holy place. The lights were kept burning 24 hours a day 7 days a week. They were never to go out. Ask: How is this a symbol for what Jesus did for us? (Jesus is the light of the world that always shines to show us the way to God.)</p>
<p>5. Altar of Incense</p>	<p>Say: The altar of incense stood right in front of the curtain that divided the two rooms of the sanctuary. Each morning and evening the priest placed incense on this golden altar that would burn continually. The sweet smell would fill the room and ascend to God. Ask: How is this a symbol for what Jesus did for us? (Jesus' life is like the sweet smelling incense that goes up to God.)</p>
<p>6. Ark of the Covenant</p>	<p>Say: Inside the most holy place was a wooden chest called the ark of the covenant. It was covered inside and out with gold. It held the Ten Commandment stones. Two gold carved angels sat on the top of the ark with their wings spread over a special place on the top called the "mercy seat." This is where God's visible presence hovered. One time each year the high priest entered the most holy place and sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice on the mercy seat. Ask: How is this a symbol for what Jesus did for us? (Because of what Jesus did for us we can come boldly into the presence of God.)</p>

Say: Everything about the Old Testament sanctuary — the building itself, the articles of furniture, and the services — all pointed people to Jesus and His work to save the sinner. In our Bible study today we will learn about Jesus as our high priest and the work He is doing in heaven for us right now.

Bible Discovery

Write on the board: Lessons from the sanctuary

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called on.

1 Read Hebrews 9:22. What was the main lesson the earthly sanctuary taught? (Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.)

Write on the board: Jesus had to shed His blood in order to forgive our sins.

Say: The most important sacrifices made in the earthly sanctuary were the morning and evening sacrifices. They were called continual because they were offered every day without fail. They were not sacrifices made by individuals for their private sins but public sacrifices offered from God for the people as a whole group. The lambs used for these sacrifices came from the sanctuary flock — given to the sanctuary as tithe from the people to support the work of the sanctuary. These sacrifices revealed that salvation was a gift from God and continually available to everyone

2 Read John 1:29. Every detail of the earthly sanctuary symbolized something about Jesus. What was the main symbol used for Jesus? (A lamb.)

Say: John the Baptist called Jesus “the Lamb of God” and said that Jesus would take away the sin of the world.

Write on the board: Jesus’ death paid the penalty for our sins

3 Read Hebrews 8:5. God showed Moses a pattern, a model that he was to copy when he built the sanctuary. Where was this model? (In heaven.)

Write on the board: There is a sanctuary in heaven

4 Read Hebrews 8:1, 2. What is Jesus’ role in heaven’s sanctuary? (High Priest.)

Write on the board: Jesus is our high priest in heaven

5 Read Hebrews 7:23-25, 1 Timothy 2:5. Why do we need Jesus to be our high priest? (He lives to intercede for us; He is our mediator.)

Say: *Intercede* and *Mediator* are words we use today in courtrooms. These words help us understand that Jesus’ work for us in heaven is to be like a lawyer defending us. Satan, our accuser, condemns us. He focuses heaven’s courtroom on all the bad things we have ever done. But Jesus is our lawyer. He does not defend our actions. They were bad. But Jesus stands up for us. He can say, “This person is innocent now because he/she has asked me to be his/her sacrifice. I have already paid the penalty for his/her sins.”

Write on the board: Jesus is our lawyer in heaven

6 Read Hebrews 9:24-28. In what way is Jesus' work for us as our high priest different from the work of the high priests in the earthly sanctuary? (Jesus died once to take away sins.)

Write on the board: ... Jesus died once for all

Say: When Jesus died on the cross He earned the right to appear before God as our high priest. He entered the holy place in heaven's sanctuary to present the names of all those who accept Him as Savior and Lord. Jesus' death on the cross paid the sin penalty for every person who would ever live — Jesus died one time to save everyone. But not every person will accept Jesus' sacrifice. Jesus' work in heaven's sanctuary applies the benefits of His sacrifice to individual people, to each person who chooses to believe in Him. Jesus' work as our high priest is just as important for our salvation as His death on the cross

7 Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Because Jesus is our high priest in heaven, what can we do? (We can approach the throne of grace with confidence and receive mercy and find grace to help us)

Write on the board: ... We can come to God boldly

Say: Because of His death on the cross, Jesus earned the right to enter the most holy place where God Himself dwells. Only Jesus can enter that room, yet He takes you and me there with Him. Because of our faith in Jesus we stand before God Himself as perfect people, saved by the blood of Jesus

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What lessons did we learn about the sanctuary?"
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly a story from your experience about when someone else stood up for you or defended you.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



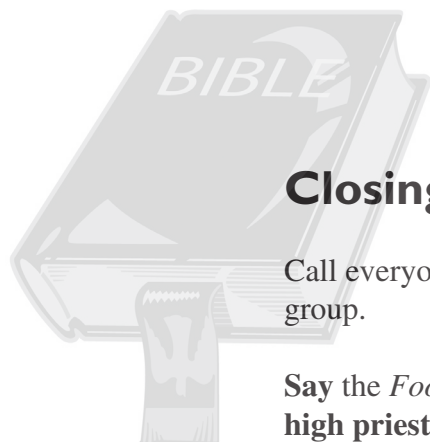
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus is our high priest in heaven's sanctuary.**

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Say: Right now Jesus is your high priest in heaven standing up for you before God's throne.

Ask: Did you think of a way to thank Him? (Acknowledge responses.)

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will ask you to share what you did to thank Jesus for standing up for you in heaven.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for His work as our high priest in heaven

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus is our high priest in heaven’s sanctuary.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

1. Jesus had to shed His blood in order to forgive our sins..... Hebrews 9:22
2. Jesus death paid the penalty for our sins John 1:29
3. There is a sanctuary in heaven Hebrews 8:5
4. Jesus is our high priest in heaven Hebrews 8:1, 2
5. Jesus is our lawyer in heaven Hebrews 7:23-25 ,1Timothy 2:5
6. Jesus died once for all Hebrews 9:24-28
7. We can come boldly to God Hebrews 4:14-16

3. Parents/mentors **Share** briefly an experience when someone stood up for you and/or defended you. What were the circumstances? Were you in the wrong?
4. Parents/mentors **Share** how the sanctuary truth makes a difference in your relationship with Jesus. **THE CHOICE — Ask:** Do you want to thank Jesus for standing up for you in heaven? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week.
6. **Pray** as a family circle thanking Jesus for standing up for you in heaven’s sanctuary.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Review** the articles of furniture in the sanctuary. **Discuss** the ones that touched each of you the most or that you found the most amazing.
2. **Ask:** What do you think it would be like if every time you did something wrong someone else stepped in to defend you? How would that make you feel?
3. **Ask:** In what ways does the study of heaven's sanctuary help you understand Jesus better?
4. **Ask:** What do you think it means to "come boldly before God's throne?"
5. **Brainstorm** for ways to thank Jesus for being your high priest in heaven's sanctuary.

Things we can do to thank Jesus for standing up for us (examples: write a praise poem or song, draw a picture of how I feel at Jesus' work for me, etc.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share what you did to thank Jesus for standing up for you in heaven.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share a message from God's prophets or messengers that has been especially meaningful to you and why.

Jesus – Your High Priest in Heaven

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 12

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Exodus 25:1-8; Exodus 36:1-6

Activity: Make a list of all the things you have brought to God as a freewill offering in the last month. Is it a short list or a long list?

For Discussion: Considering all the symbolism associated with the sanctuary, what do you think is symbolic about God asking the Israelites to supply the materials for the sanctuary as a freewill offering? Do you think there is anything symbolic about them offering so much that they had to be asked to stop? What are you bringing to the Lord as a freewill offering?

Prayer Point: Thank God for His abundant goodness and ask Him to make you generous with the blessings He has given you.

Choice Two

Scripture: Exodus 24:15-18; Skim through Exodus 25-30; Exodus 31:18; Exodus 32:1, 2, 19

Activity: Make a pact with your family to turn off the television and/or unplug the computer and video games for a certain amount of time. Do you think you could go 40 days?

For Discussion: Where was Moses and what was he doing between Exodus 24:15 and 32:19? Compare Exodus 25:8 with Exodus 32:3, 4. Why do you think God wanted to give the Israelites a visual representation of Himself? What do you think about Moses receiving instructions for the sanctuary while the people were making themselves an idol? How does this story compare with how we live our own lives?

Prayer Point: Ask God to keep you humble and teachable. Ask Him to make His presence so unmistakable that you will not be tempted to forget Him and worship something else instead.

Choice Three

Scripture: Exodus 37:10-16; Leviticus 24:5-9

Activity: Use the internet, a Bible dictionary or some other reference book to find a picture of what the table in the sanctuary might have looked like.

For Discussion: Why did God choose to keep unleavened bread in the sanctuary and have the priests eat it after it was seven days old? Do you think it was stale after that long? Why did He ask for incense to be kept on the table? What lesson was God trying to teach with the bread and the incense?

Prayer point: Thank God for supplying all your physical needs.

Choice Four

Scripture: Exodus 37:17-23

Activity: Use a reference Bible, a Bible dictionary or another Bible reference source to find a modern equivalent for a talent of gold. Use a similar source to find a picture of what the lamp stand might have looked like.

For discussion: Why do you think God wanted the lamp stand to look like almond flowers, buds and blossoms? Can you think of another Bible story that involved an almond branch? (If not, use a concordance to find it and read it.) Why do you think God asked for seven lights on the lamp stand?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for the light He brings into your life. Ask Him to help you become a light for others so you can help them find Him.

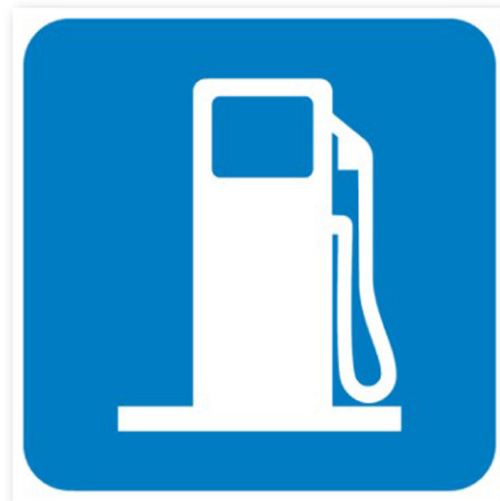
Choice Five

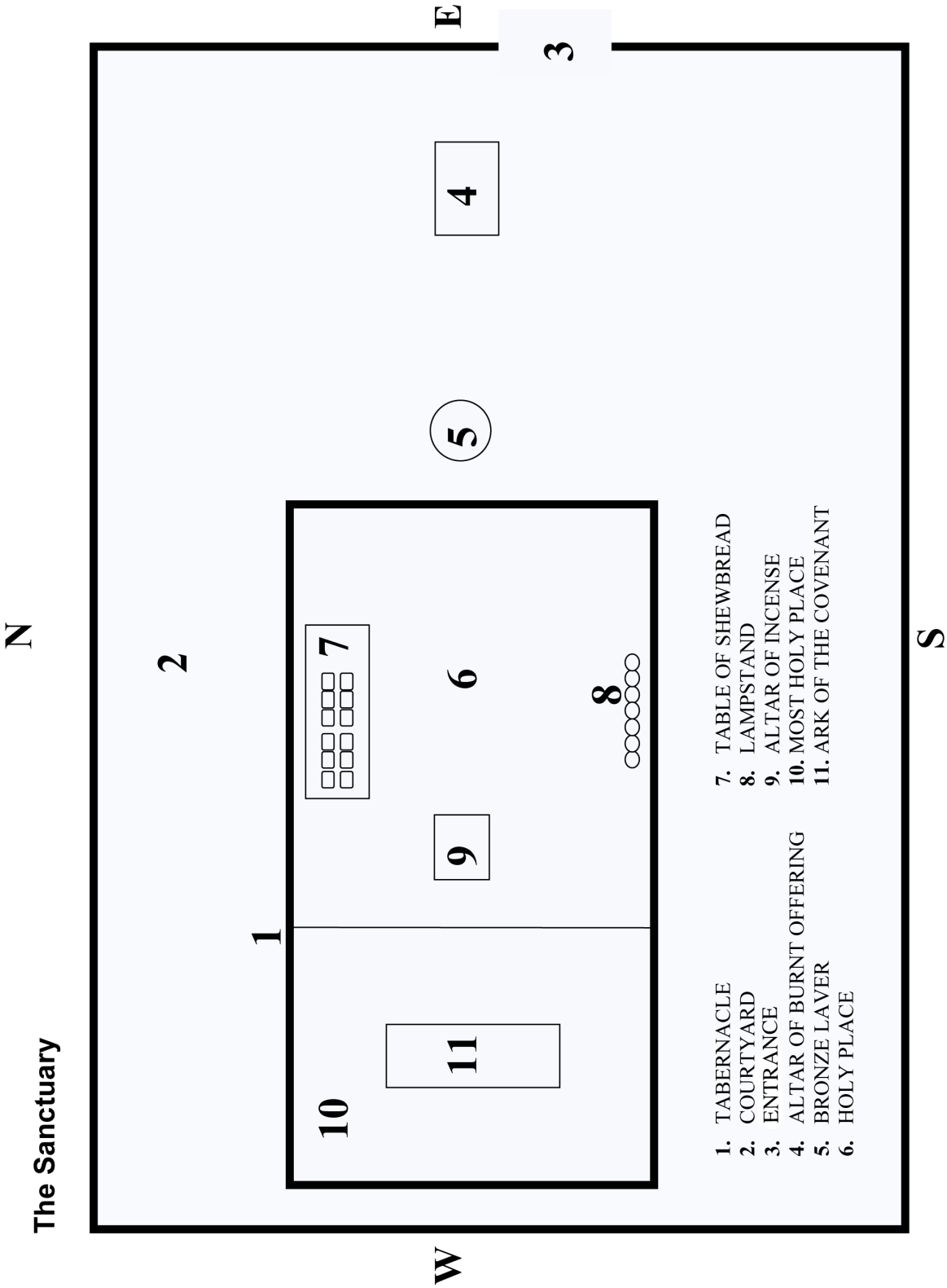
Scripture: Exodus 30:7-10

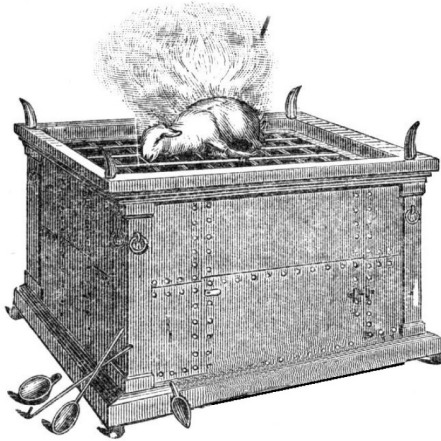
Activity: Burn some incense or a scented candle. Close your eyes for a moment and imagine the sanctuary filled with golden furniture and illuminated by the seven lamps. What does it look like? How does it smell?

For discussion: How is the incense that burned in the sanctuary like prayer? Why did the priest have to make atonement on the altar of incense every year? Why do you think the altar of incense was placed in front of the curtain going in to the most holy place? How many of the senses did God involve in the sanctuary services?

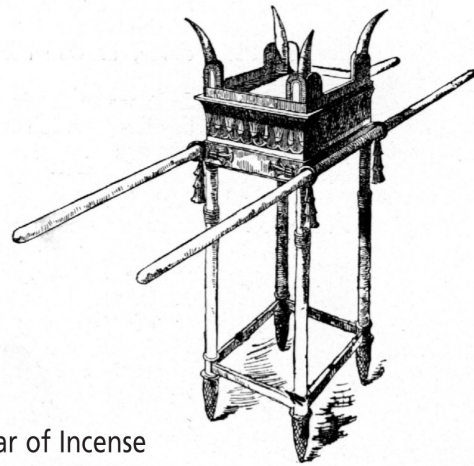
Prayer Point: Thank God for always being available through prayer. Thank Him for using all your senses to reach you with His plan for your salvation.



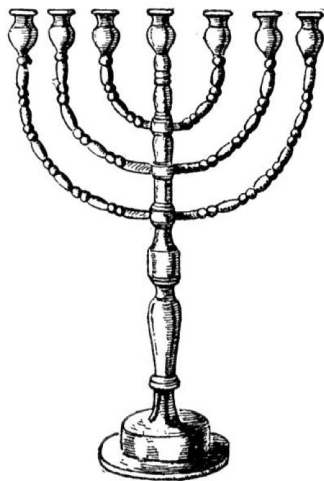




Altar of Burnt Offering



Altar of Incense



Lampstand

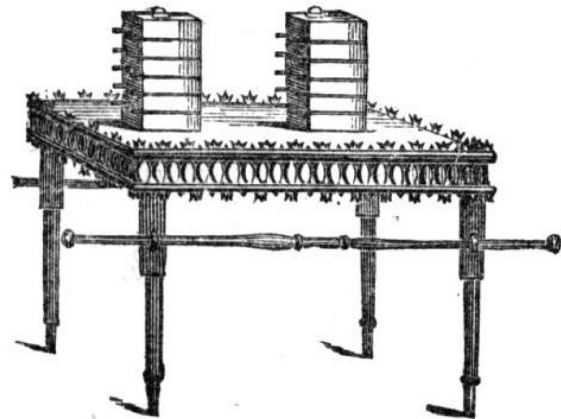
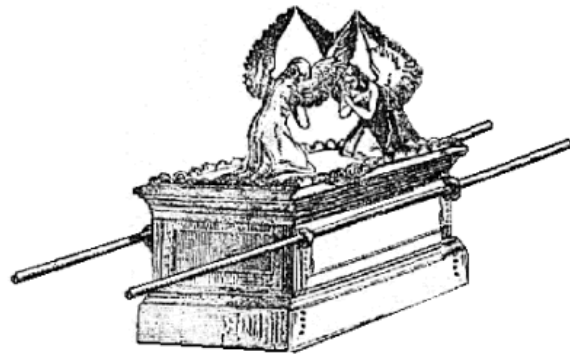


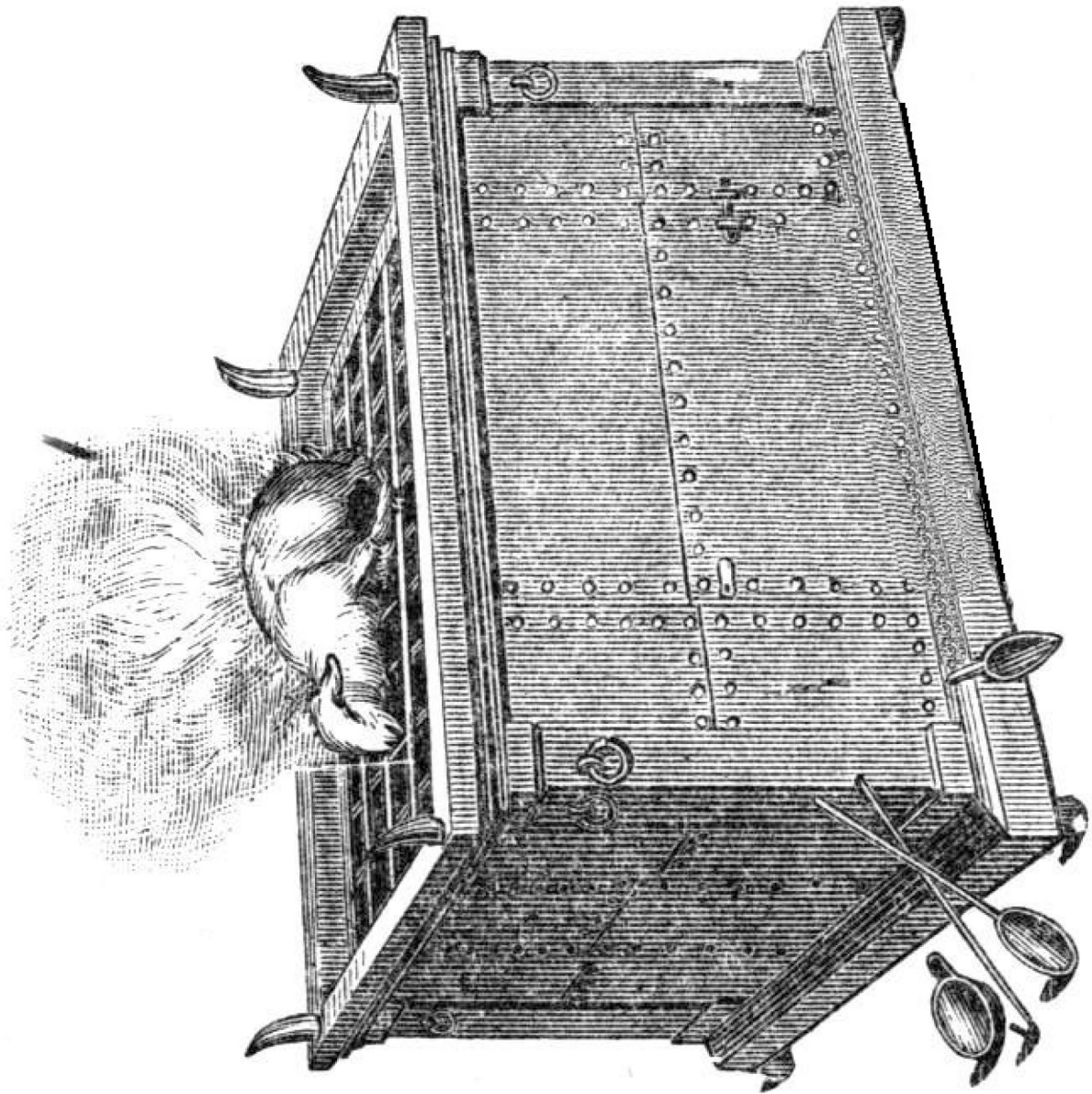
Table of Shewbread



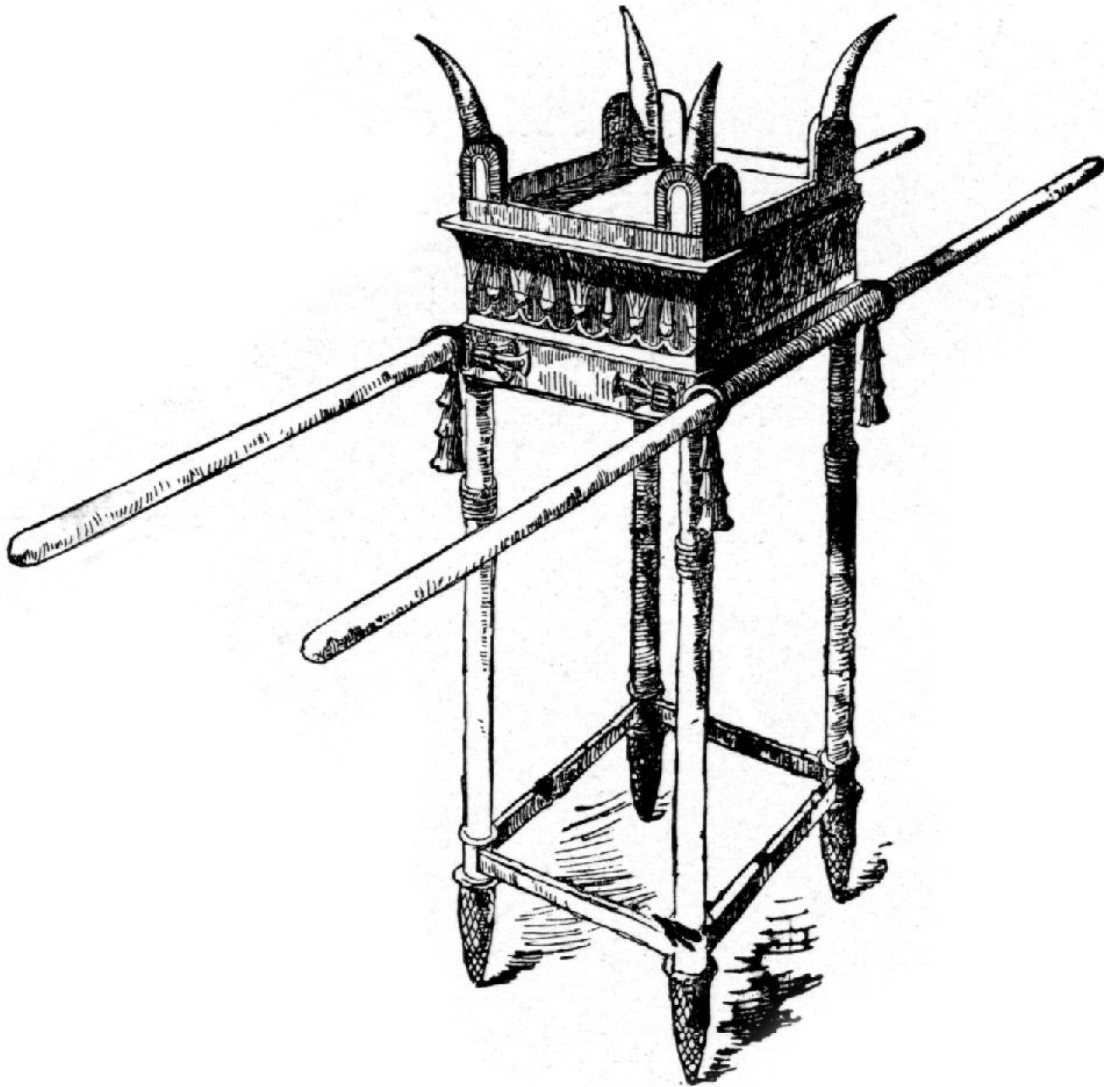
Bronze Laver



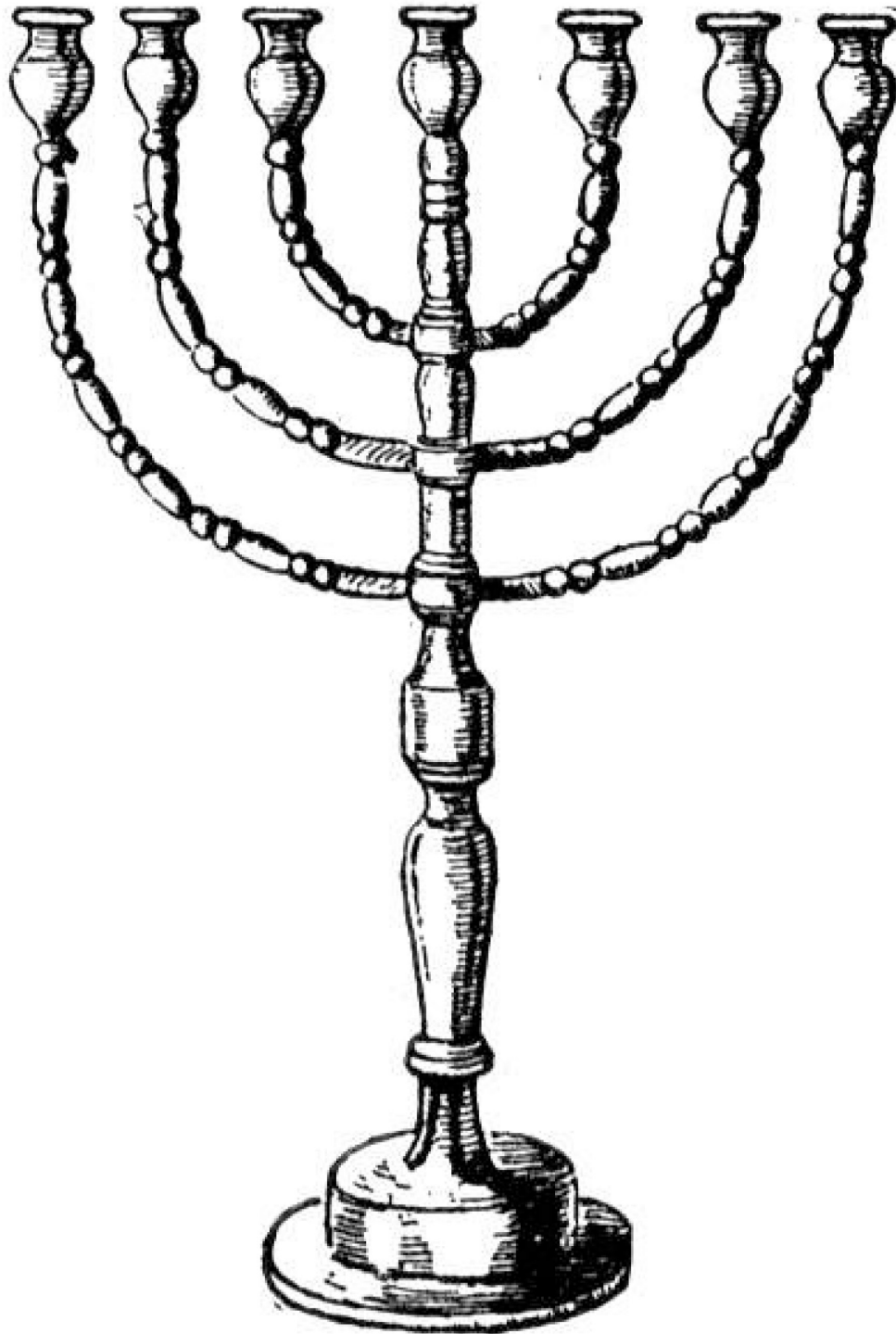
Ark of the Covenant



Altar of Burnt Offering



Altar of Incense



Lampstand

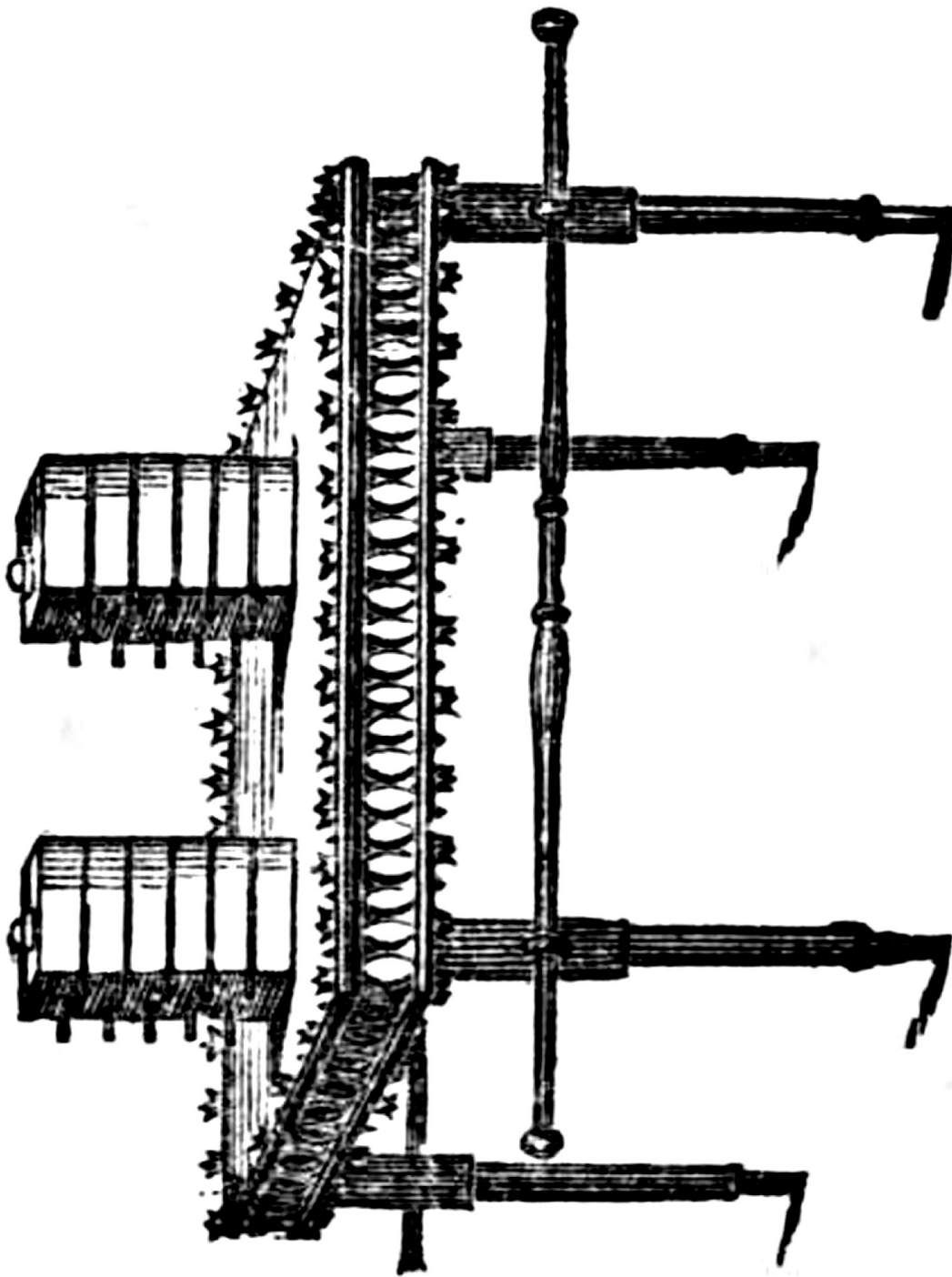
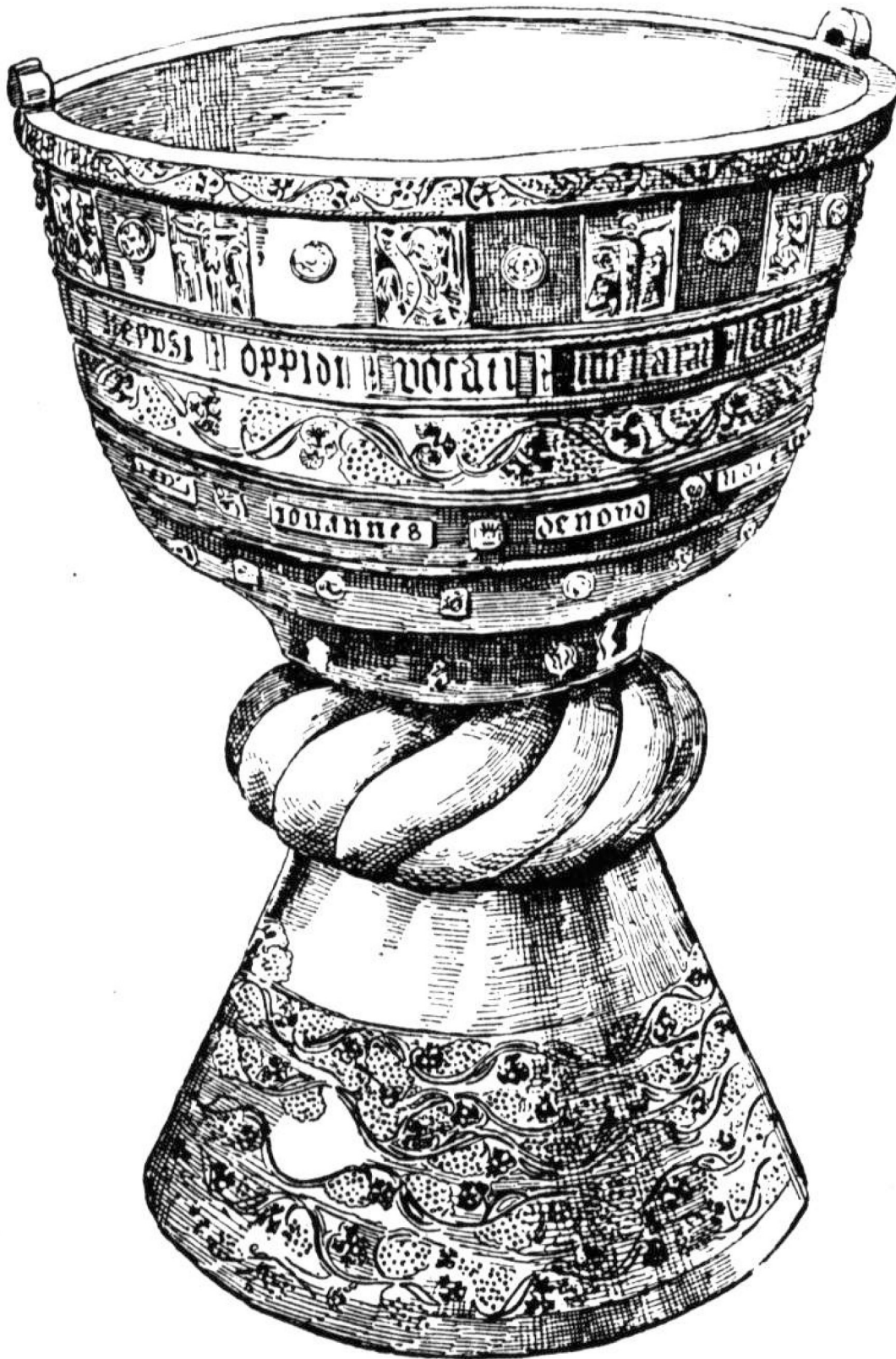
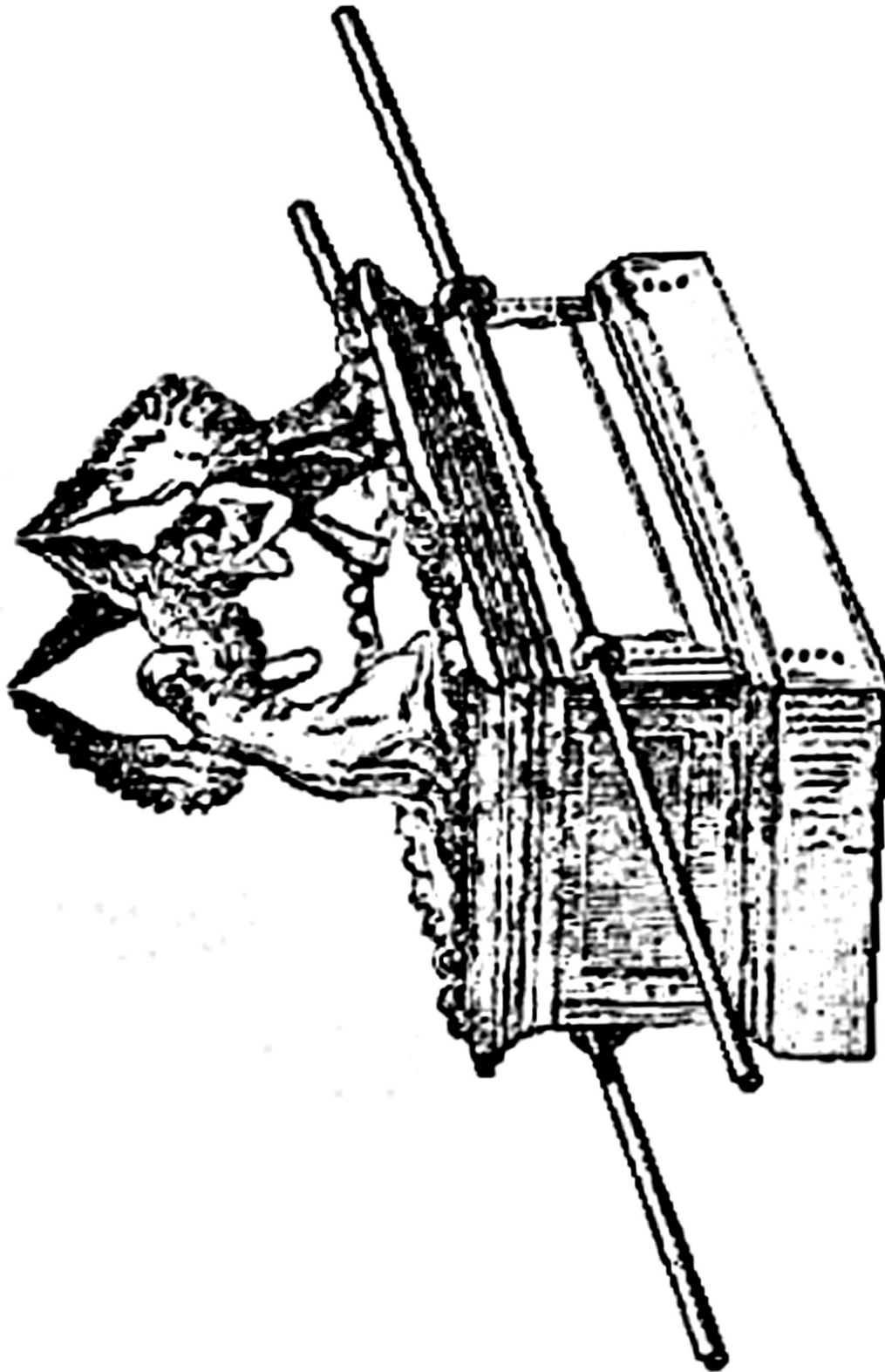


Table of Shewbread



Bronze Laver



Ark of the Covenant

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 13

For Kids

The Gift of Prophecy

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

Say: Last week we learned that Jesus is our high priest in heaven's sanctuary. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did this past week to thank Jesus for standing up for you in heaven.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home OR to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that God sends messages to His people through His prophets
- **Feel** willing to listen to God's messengers
- **Respond** accepting God's messages through His prophets

Jesus sends
special
messages
to us
through His
prophets



*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Instruct the participants to stand in a circle.

Say: The goal of this activity is to communicate a message around our circle. _____ (Name) will begin by whispering the message I give to the next person. When it is your turn you can whisper the message only one time, so listen carefully to your messenger. When you receive the message whisper to the next person. Be careful that others cannot hear what you whisper.

Give message number 1 to one participant and have him/her begin. When the message has gone around the circle ask the last person to tell the group the message he/she received. Ask the first person to read the message to the group to determine how well the message made it around the circle. If you have time, do this again with messages 2 and 3 inviting a different participant to begin.

Debrief

Ask: What needed to happen for the message to go around the circle exactly as it started? (Each person had to speak the message clearly; each person had to listen carefully.) What standard did we use to determine how well the message made it from person to person? (The sentence written on the slip of paper.) How does God get messages to His people? (Sending prophets to give His message; having his messengers write the Bible; sending angels with messages.)

Say: It is absolutely important for you to know whether the messages you receive about God are truly from Him.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.

You need

- Messages on slips of paper

Ahead

Copy the following on separate slips of paper:

1. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.
2. The Bible teaches us how to know if a message is really from God.
3. God tells us about the future so we can trust in Him.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus invites us to be His disciples.

Activity

Say: The Bible tells us about the different people God called to be His prophets. When I say the name of a prophet, tell me what you know about his/her story and what work he/she did for God.

Prepare in advance for this activity by reading the Scripture references. If the group does not come up with the stories on the chart, briefly describe them.

You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

To be prepared for the activity read and become familiar with the Scripture references for the Bible prophets. Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families as they arrive. Be sure to include the number reference.

Prophet:	Prophet's Work:	Bible Passage:
Moses	Led God's people out of slavery: leader, teacher, preacher, judge	Exodus 3:7-12
Deborah	Led Israel; judge; messenger; commander	Judges 4:4-10
Daniel	Interpreted dreams; led others in intercessory prayer	Daniel 2:1-5, 11, 27-28
Jonah	Preached a message of repentance and salvation	Jonah 3
Simeon	Proclaimed the baby Jesus as the Messiah; predicted the future	Luke 2:25-35

Ask: Do all of God's prophets have the same work to do? (No.) How many different tasks can you identify from these examples? (Lead, preach, teach, heal, do miracles, judge, give messages, tell the future.)

Say: In Bible times God gave many different jobs to His prophets. Some, like Daniel, communicated a message from God to one specific person. Some, like Jonah, communicated a message to a large group of people. Some, like Moses and Deborah, provided leadership for God's people. Some, like Simeon, predicted the future. They each had a specific task that God gave them to do. They weren't perfect people. They made mistakes, yet God used them to reveal Himself and His plans to people.

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families and instruct them to look up their verse and be prepared to read it to the class. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called.

Write on the board: What the Bible teaches about prophets

1 Read Amos 3:7. Why did God use prophets in Old Testament times? (To reveal what He was going to do.)

Say: God wants us to know ahead what He is going to do. Then when it happens, we will have trust in God and know that He is in control and is with us.

Write on the board: Prophets reveal God's plans

2 Read 2 Peter 1:20, 21. This passage says "Above all you must understand...". What does Peter want us to understand? (That a prophet's words are not his/her own; prophets are given a message from God through the Holy Spirit.)

Say: It is important to remember that God's prophet-messengers do not speak for themselves or of their own ideas; they speak for God and what He has revealed to them through the Holy Spirit.

Write on the board: The Holy Spirit moves prophets to speak for God

3 Read Joel 2:28, 29. We understand that Joel is giving a prophecy of what will happen in the last days — what Joel calls "those days." What does this passage say will happen "in those days"? (The Lords will pour out His Spirit on all people — both men and women; sons and daughters will prophesy; old men will dream dreams; young men will see visions.)

Say: Before Jesus comes we expect an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This passage says specifically that sons and daughters will prophesy.

Write on the board: People will prophesy before Jesus comes

4 Read Matthew 24:10-14. In Matthew 24 Jesus gives signs of His coming. What does he say will happen in regard to prophets before His second coming? (Many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.)

Write on the board: False prophets will deceive people

Ask: How can we tell a false prophet from a true prophet?

Say: There are four simple tests we can use to find out if a messenger is truly from God.

5 Read 1 John 4:1-3.

Say: A true prophet accepts Jesus Christ as God's Son who saves us from our sins.

Write on the board: A true prophet accepts Jesus

6 Read Isaiah 8:20.

Say: The things a true prophet teaches will agree with the Bible and uphold God's law.

Write on the board: A true prophet speaks in agreement with God's Word

7 Read Matthew 7:15-17.

Say: A true prophet will bear "good fruit" in his/her life — this means that the way a true prophet lives will be like Jesus — being good and doing good.

Write on the board: A true prophet will be a Christ-like person

8 Read Jeremiah 28:8, 9.

Say: When a true prophet predicts a future event — it happens.

Write on the board: A true prophet's predictions always come true

Activity

Read the following scenarios and ask the participants to vote — thumbs up if they think a true prophet is described; thumbs down if they think a false prophet is described. After each vote ask them to identify which test of a true prophet supports their answer. Leave the marker board facing the group for their reference.

Scenario 1: My friend follows Jesus all the time. He knows the Bible and is always referring people to the Bible in order to answer their questions. He is kind, honest, caring, generous and humble. He has even predicted the future and some of his predictions have actually come true.
False Prophet — Predictions always come true

Scenario 2: You would certainly think that my friend loves Jesus. She talks about Him all the time. She quotes her Bible all the time and you could never hope to win a Scripture-based argument with her. She once predicted that something would happen and it did. Sometimes she is rude, bossy and unkind.
False Prophet — By their fruits you will know them.

Scenario 3: My friend is always eager to share Jesus with anyone he can. When people come to him with questions he is always happy to give them his opinion. There are a few things he says that might not exactly agree with Scripture, but most of the time he is right on. He is well regarded as a kind, loving, generous and caring person.
False Prophet — "To the Law and to the testimony..."

Scenario 4: Jesus is the center of my friend's life and the Bible is the most important book to him. Whenever he has a problem or is asked for advice he prays earnestly for answers. People will tell you that he is warm, loving, generous, kind and patient. Every time he has predicted that something would happen, it has happened.

True Prophet — All four tests agree

Say: Remember these four tests to help you recognize a true from a false prophet.

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What does the Bible teach about prophets?"
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly a message from God's Messengers or prophets that has been especially meaningful to you and why.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



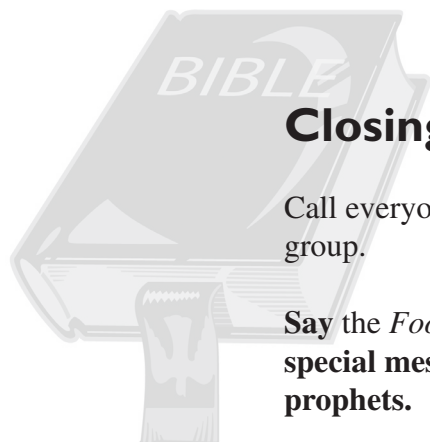
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus sends special messages to us through His prophets.**

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Say: In Old Testament times, in New Testament times, and in these last days before Jesus comes God has sent messages to His people through His prophets.

Ask: Did you think of a way to listen to God's messengers? (Acknowledge responses.)

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will ask you to share one thing you did to listen to God's messengers.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for sending messages through His prophets
- asking Him to help you listen to His messages

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus sends special messages to us through His prophets.**
2. Parents/mentors **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Prophets reveal God’s plans..... | Amos 3:7 |
| 2. The Holy Spirit moves God’s prophets to speak for God..... | 2 Peter 1:20, 21 |
| 3. People will prophesy before Jesus comes..... | Joel 2:28, 29 |
| 4. False prophets will deceive people..... | Matthew 24: 1-14 |

Four Tests of a True Prophet:

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. A true prophet accepts Jesus..... | 1 John 4:1-3 |
| 2. A true prophet speaks according to God’s Word..... | Isaiah 8:20 |
| 3. A true prophet will be a Christ-like person..... | Matthew 7:15-17 |
| 4. A true prophet’s predictions always come true..... | Jeremiah 28:8, 9 |

3. Parents/mentors **Share** a message from Jesus through His prophets / messengers that has been especially meaningful to you and why.
4. Parents/mentors **Share** briefly what difference knowing about God’s messengers makes in your relationship with Jesus. **THE CHOICE — Ask:** Do you want to listen to God’s messengers? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** as a family circle thanking Jesus for the messages He sends us through His prophets/ messengers. **Ask** Him to help you listen to His messengers.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Ask:** Why do you think God has used prophet/messengers to communicate with people?
2. **Ask:** Why do you think Jesus warned us about false prophets?
3. **Discuss:** If a friend told us about a fabulous new Christian speaker and invited us to hear this person preach, how would we know if this person was truly from God?
4. **Brainstorm** for ways we can “tune in” to messages that God has sent us through His prophets. For example, use T.A.G. time or family worship to read the writings of Bible prophets like Micah or Isaiah, keep a journal of special messages that we read or hear that touch our hearts, etc.

Ways we can listen to God’s messengers

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Grace Point — Next week you will be asked to share one thing you did to listen to God’s messengers.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share an experience when you were faithful to Jesus when it wasn’t popular or when you were the only one. How did Jesus support you in that experience?

The Gift of Prophecy

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 13

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Acts 2:17, 21

Activity: Look up Acts 2:17, 21. Think of people you know who need “to call on the name of the Lord.” Make a list (family, friends, neighbors, etc.) Your list should include the very young, the very old, and everyone in between! Write Acts 2:17 at the top of the page and Acts 2:21 at the bottom of the page. Keep this list in a special place and pray that everyone you listed will accept Jesus as Savior and be saved.

For Discussion: How do you feel knowing that Jesus wants to use you NOW while you are young to tell others about Him? How can your church help you? How can you help your church?

Prayer Point: Think of people you know, from the very young to the every old and everywhere between. Pray that they will accept Jesus as their Savior and be saved.

Choice Two

Scripture: Amos 3:7

Activity: Look up the words *plan*, *secret* and *reveal* in a dictionary. Look them up again in a thesaurus. What other words do you find that best describe what these terms mean as used in Amos 3:7 KJV and NIV?

For Discussion: Do you like knowing what to expect in the future? Why or why not? Share a memory of a time when your family or school planned something and you didn’t know about it until it actually happened. Was this a happy or frustrating experience? How does that experience compare with God revealing His plans to us?

Prayer Point: Pray that God will help us recognize His true prophets and then listen to and believe the things He reveals to us through them.

Choice Three

Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:15

Activity: What questions do you have about the promise that God reveals His secrets and plans to His servants the prophets? Write your questions down, make a list of words to look up in a Bible concordance, and then search the Scriptures to find answers to your questions. If you need assistance, share your list of questions with your *Footprints* leader or Pastor and ask him or her to give you Bible answers.

For Discussion: Use your own words to describe what prophecy means.

Prayer Point: Pray that the Holy Spirit will show us answers to all our questions concerning how He works through His prophets.

Choice Four

Scripture: Isaiah 8:20

Activity: Read Isaiah 8:20 and draw a picture to illustrate what it is telling us.

For discussion: How will you know if someone is speaking according to the law and the testimony (the Bible)? How thoroughly will you have to know what your Bible says in order to know if someone else is speaking from God's word? How can you use the Bible to check out what someone else teaches about the Bible?

Prayer Point: Ask God to help you make time with His Word a priority. Ask Him to make His Scriptures clear to you when you study.

Choice Five

Scripture: 1 John 4:1-3

Activity: What is the difference between *true* and *false*? How many different words can you list to describe each word? Make a drawing or create a symbol to represent each word.

For discussion: Why is it important that a true prophet keep Jesus in the center of everything? Do some people who claim to have a special message from God fail to do this? What does that say about their message?

Prayer Point: Ask God to give you an opportunity to share something from this lesson with someone this week. Ask Him to make you bold with your testimony about Jesus.

FOOTPRINTS

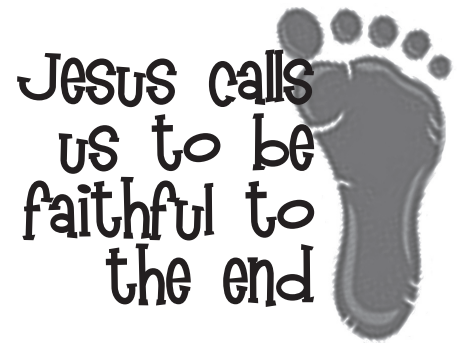
Leader's Guide for LESSON 14

For Kids

God's Faithful People

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)



Say: Last week we learned that Jesus sends special messages to us through His prophets. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell one thing you did to listen to God's messengers this past week.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that the remnant are God's faithful people
- **Feel** eager to be faithful to God
- **Respond** by choosing to be faithful until Jesus comes

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

You need

- Hats
- Whistle

Instruct the participants to stand in a circle and turn to the right so each person is facing another person's back. Distribute one hat to each participant except one.

Say: Place your hat on your head. (One person will be without a hat.) When I blow the whistle, use both of your hands to grab the hat on the head of the person in front of you and place their hat on your head. Keep doing this until I blow the whistle again. The person in the circle without a hat when the whistle blows is OUT and must leave the circle.

At the beginning of each new round remove one hat so that there is always one less hat than people. Continue play until there are only two people left. They will face each other for the last round. Blow the whistle again for the two to start and again for the two of them to stop. The person with the hat is the winner. Invite the participants to cheer for the "winner." If time permits, play the game again.

Debrief

Ask: What did our winner need to do to be the last person standing? (Pay close attention to the hat in front of him/her; not give up.)

Say: The person who made it to the end of the game is our remnant. *Remnant* is a word that means "those who remain."

Ask: Think about the last people standing for God before Jesus comes. Who do they need to pay close attention to? (Jesus.) How will they be like the winner of our game? (They will not give up.)

Say: Let's look at what the Bible teaches about the remnant people – those who are so connected to Jesus that they can be faithful to the very end.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus calls us to be faithful to the end.

Activity

Distribute copies of the reading and invite the participants to stand in a circle facing each other

Say: Our reading is taken from three different chapters in Revelation.

Ask: In the Book of Revelation who does the "Lamb" refer to? (Jesus.) Who does the "Dragon" refer to? (Satan.) Who does the "Woman" represent? (The Church.)

Narrator The Dragon was enraged at the Woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring – those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

Males Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion,

Females and with Him 144,000 who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads.

Boys And I heard a sound from heaven

Girls like the roar of rushing waters.

Males The sound I heard was like that of harpists playing their harps.

Females And they sang a new song before the throne.

Narrator No one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.

Boys These are those who kept themselves pure.

You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- One photocopy of the reading for each participant

Ahead

Photocopy the reading for each participant. Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families as they arrive. Be sure to include the number reference.

- Girls** They follow the Lamb wherever He goes.
- All** No lie was found in their mouths
- Narrator** Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth — to every
- Males** nation,
- Females** tribe,
- Boys** language
- Girls** and people.
- Narrator** The angel said in a loud voice,
- All** (Loudly) Fear God and give Him glory,
- Males** because the hour of His judgment has come.
- Females** (Loudly) And worship Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.
- Narrator** A second angel followed and said, “Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the great.” A third angel followed and said in a loud voice
- Males** There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image
- Females** or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.
- All** The remnant overcome by the blood of the Lamb, and by sharing all that Jesus did for them.

Say: We already learned that the word *remnant* means those who remain. Throughout time God has always had people who faithfully endured because they found their strength in God, even when it seemed like the whole world had turned evil. I am going to read the description of Bible characters who were God’s remnant people for their time. When you think you know who the person is, raise your hand.

1. “Ever since I was taken as a captive from my home in Israel, I have been a slave in the household of the commander of the army of Aram. I am all alone. My master has leprosy and everyone is upset. I could tell him about the prophet Elisha in Israel, but I am only a child. Who am I?” (Namaan’s little maid.)

What challenges did she face as God’s remnant?

2. “I live in Iran, also called Persia. They just passed a law to kill all of God’s people. I can stay safely in the king’s harem or I can risk my life and go before the king. If I die, I die. Who am I?” (Esther.)

What challenges did she face as God’s remnant?

3. “At God’s command I challenged King Ahab to a duel on the top of Mt. Carmel. I alone stood before the king and hundreds of Baal’s priests. After God answered my prayer and sent fire down from heaven, I ran for several days from the wrath of Queen Jezebel. Who am I?” (Elijah.)

What challenges did he face as God’s remnant?

4. “My family and I live in a wicked and terrible time. I have preached for nearly 120 years at God’s command. Soon He will destroy all life on earth. We alone from the human family will survive. Who am I?” (Noah.)

What challenges did he face as God’s remnant?

5. We have been friends since we were children. We watched helplessly as King Nebuchadnezzar’s army destroyed our homes, our temple, our city. Now the King has commanded that we worship his image or die. Who are we? (The three Hebrew youths.)

What challenges did they face as God’s remnant?

Say: Throughout all the ages God has had people who have remained faithful to Him in spite of the challenges they faced. The Bible tells us that right before Jesus comes, God will again have a remnant who face challenges. God will give them a special mission to accomplish. Let’s explore the Book of Revelation to learn about God’s last-day remnant people. What are they like? What do they do?

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families and instruct them to look up their verse and be prepared to read it to the class. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called.

Write on the board: Remnant – God’s faithful people...

1 Read Revelation 3:20, 21. What special relationship do God’s faithful people have with Jesus? (They have opened their heart’s door to Jesus and invited Him to come in).

Write on the board: Have a heart relationship with Jesus

2 Read Revelation 12:10, 11. God’s faithful people are described as people who “overcome.” How do they overcome the accuser? (By the blood of the Lamb; by the word of their testimony.)

Write on the board: Overcome through Jesus

3 Read Revelation 14:12. How are God’s faithful people described? (Having patient endurance; obeying God’s commandments; remaining faithful to Jesus.)

Write on the board: Obey God’s commandments

Write on the board: Remain faithful to Jesus

4 Read Revelation 12:17. Who are “the rest of her offspring?” (God’s remnant – His faithful people.) How are they described in this verse? (Obey God’s commandments; hold to the testimony of Jesus.)

Write on the board: Hold to the testimony of Jesus

5 Read Revelation 19:10. What is the “testimony of Jesus?” (The Spirit of Prophecy.)

Write on the board: Have the spirit of prophecy

6 Read Revelation 14:6. What is the “eternal gospel” that the angel proclaims? (The good news about Jesus who died to save us.)

Who is to hear the eternal gospel message? (All those who live on the earth – every nation, tribe, language and people.)

Write on the board: Proclaim Jesus to everyone

7 **Read Revelation 14:7.** This verse tells people to worship God. How is God described? (As the creator of heaven and earth.)

Write on the board: Invite people to worship God as creator

Say: God's last-day people who are faithful to Him will proclaim the message that God is to be worshipped because He is the creator.

8 **Read Revelation 18:2, 4.** Babylon is used in Revelation as a symbol for false teachings about God. What invitation does Revelation 18:4 give? (Come out of Babylon so you will not receive her plagues.)

Write on the board: Warn against false teachings

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "Tell me about God's faithful remnant people. They ...".
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly an area in which you know God is helping you to remain faithful to Him.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus calls us to be faithful to the end.**

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Ask: Did you think of ways Jesus can help you remain faithful to Him no matter what?

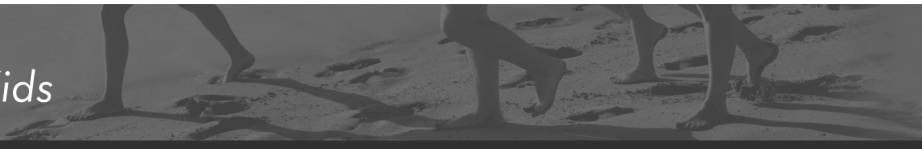
Grace Point — Say: Next week I will ask you to share any opportunities you may have where Jesus helps you to remain faithful to Him.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- asking Jesus to help each of you be faithful to Him

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

FOOTPRINTS *For Kids*



My Choice

1. **Say** the *Footprint* together: **Jesus calls us to be faithful to the end.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

The Remnant – God’s faithful people ...

1. ...have a heart relationship with Jesus Revelation 3:20, 21
2. ...overcome through Jesus Revelation 12:10, 11
3. ...obey God’s commandments Revelation 14:12
4. ...remain faithful to Jesus Revelation 14:12
5. ...hold to the testimony of Jesus Revelation 12:17
6. ...have the spirit of prophecy Revelation 19:10
7. ...preach Jesus to everyone Revelation 14:6
8. ...invite people to worship the Creator Revelation 14:7
9. ...warn against Babylon..... Revelation 14:8; 18:2, 4

3. Parents/mentors **Share** briefly an experience when you were faithful to Jesus when it wasn’t popular or when you were the only one. How did Jesus support you in that experience?
4. **Say:** It is often difficult to be the only one doing the right thing or feeling left out when we follow Jesus. **Ask:** Which Bible verse from our study can help us be faithful to Jesus no matter what?
5. Parents/mentors **Share** your desire to be faithful to Jesus no matter what. **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Do you want to be faithful to Jesus no matter what? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
6. **Pray** as a family circle telling Jesus that you want to be faithful to Him no matter what and asking Him to help you.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Ask:** Are there situations when you have a hard time being faithful?
2. **Brainstorm** for situations where it is hard to remain faithful to Jesus and what you know He wants for you, such as when someone makes fun of another person and everybody laughs, if you tell the truth you will be punished, etc.

After you think of specific situations, **Brainstorm** for ways that Jesus can help you remain faithful in each situation and complete the chart.

Difficult Situations:	How Jesus Can Help:
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

3. **Discuss:** What can we do in our family to support each other in being faithful to Jesus even when we are away from each other?

Grace Point — Next week you will be asked to share any opportunities you may have where Jesus helps you to remain faithful to Him.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share an experience you have had with the death of someone and the comfort you found in Jesus through that experience?

God's Faithful People

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 14

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Revelation 14:12

Activity: If you could only share one truth from the Bible with a friend, what would it be? Make a list of the Bible verses you would use to share this truth with your friend.

For Discussion: Megan, a sixth-grader, said, "I've been trying to get my friend Walker to go to church on Sabbath. It's been about a year and he only went one time. I showed Him in the Bible where it says that we should keep the Sabbath holy, but he said, 'That's only in your Bible.' I told him to get his Bible so I could show him the verse in there too, but he didn't have one."

There are many different versions/translations of the Bible; however, like Megan, with confidence we can share every truth in Scripture using any version of the Bible. Why is this so?

Prayer Point: Ask God to make you a loving Christian friend so that others will want to know more about what you believe.

Choice Two

Scripture: Zephaniah 3:13

Activity: Make an acrostic with the word "remnant," using each letter of the word to start a different description of God's true people.

For Discussion: Which characteristic of God's true people appeals to you most? Why?

Prayer Point: Thank God for the opportunity to be one of His remnant people. Ask Him to give you courage to boldly share His message with those you know.

Choice Three

Scripture: Revelation 12:17

Activity: Draw a picture based on what you have read in this verse.

For Discussion: Have you ever been in trouble for obeying? Why is the Dragon angry at those who obey? What is your testimony of Jesus that you hold to?

Prayer Point: Ask God to make your testimony of Jesus one that will attract others to Him. Ask Him to give you the power to do all He asks of you.

Choice Four

Scripture: Revelation 14:6, 7

Activity: Find a comfortable place outside, where you can sit or stand with your eyes closed for a few minutes. Use your senses to hear, smell and feel your surroundings taking special notice of things created by God. With your eyes still closed think of a friend who doesn't know Jesus and imagine that he/she is standing right beside you. What words would you say to encourage him to worship God as his creator?

For discussion: How can we encourage people each week around the world to worship God as creator? Why do you think it is important to worship God as Creator?

Prayer Point: Pray that you can share God as creator with someone you know.

Choice Five

Scripture: Revelation 14:12

Activity: Review God's Ten Commandments. One by one, highlight those that your church teaches people to obey through Jesus.

For discussion: Why is it important to obey all of God's Ten Commandments? Read John 14:15 and Matthew 5:19. There is only one way to keep all of God's commandments, and that is through Jesus' amazing grace. What does this tell you about your need for Jesus?

Prayer Point: Pray that Jesus will help you be faithful as described in Revelation.

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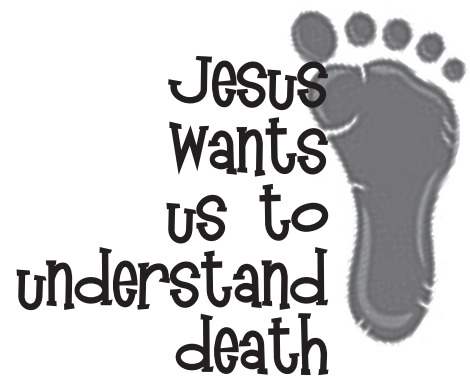
Leader's Guide for LESSON 15

For Kids

What Happens When People Die?

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)



Say: Last week we learned that the remnant are God's faithful people in the last days before Jesus comes. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell about any opportunity you had to be faithful to Jesus this past week.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that people die as a result of sin
- **Feel** comforted that Jesus will bring an end to all death
- **Respond** by choosing to be at peace about death

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

You need

- One balloon per person
- Permanent markers

Instruct participants to blow up their balloons, twist the end and hold it pinched. (Adults assist children as needed.) Participants are to draw a face on their balloons and give them names. Everyone then introduces their balloon to one or more persons. At a signal from the leader, everyone releases their balloon and watches what happens.

Debrief

Ask: What happened to your balloon? (It flew around the room.) Why? (It lost its air.) How is air inside a balloon like air inside people? (It is the same air; it fills the balloon like it fills our lungs.) What happens to a person when the air inside them is gone forever? (They die.)

Say: Balloons are “lifeless” until they are filled with air. The Bible teaches that a person is lifeless without breath. Job 27:3 says: “As long as I have life within me, the *breath* of God is in my nostrils. Let’s look at what the Bible teaches about death.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus wants us to understand death.

Activity

Based on Luke 7:11-17

Assign the following roles: director, narrator, Jesus, disciples, crowd following Jesus, widow, funeral group, dead son, two people to carry the dead son.

You need

- Two copies of the script
- Bible costumes (optional)
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- Marker board/markers
- Bottles of bubble solution/wands

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references for numbers 2-5 on separate slips of paper for distribution to the families. Be sure to include the number reference.

Instruct the participants to listen closely to the story so they can act out what is happening to their characters as it is read. Instruct those role-playing Jesus, His disciples, and the crowd following Him, to enter from one side of the room. Instruct those playing the widow and funeral procession to enter from the other side. The two groups are to walk slowly toward each other.

Director: Prompts everyone into action as the narrator reads.

Narrator: (Reads with great enthusiasm.)

It was a beautiful day as Jesus walked with His disciples to the little village of Nain. A large crowd followed Jesus. They wanted to stay near Him because they had found hope, healing and peace in Jesus' presence.

Director: Prompts Jesus and the crowd to begin walking together.

Narrator: Everyone walked with a bounce in their steps. Their voices created waves of excitement in the air so that even from a distance, all who heard could tell that their hearts were filled with joy!

Director: Prompts crowd following Jesus to chatter in a joyful, excited way.

Narrator: Along the way, they saw another large crowd walking toward them.

Director: Prompts members of the funeral procession to begin walking towards Jesus and his disciples.

Narrator: The group walked with slow, sad steps and their heads hung low. Their voices echoed in waves of moaning and crying so that even from a distance all who heard could tell that their hearts were filled with sadness.

Director: Prompt crowd to wail and mourn.

Narrator: This crowd was gathered for a funeral. A woman who had already lost her husband in death was now burying her only son. Her sorrow was very great and all who knew her shared her pain.

Director: Prompt funeral crowd to continue wailing. Make sure that Jesus and the widow are at the front of their respective groups.

Narrator: Jesus' heart ached for the mother and all who mourned with her. He said to her, "Don't cry." Then he spoke to her dead son and said, "Young man, get up!" At once the boy was alive again and sat up!

Director: Prompt the boy to sit up and the mother and son to hug each other.

Narrator: The crowd of people who had been crying suddenly broke into cheers of amazement and joy. The mother now understood the healing power of Jesus. She felt hope and peace in Jesus. Together both crowds of people walked into the village of Nain praising God with excited voices.

Director: Prompt all participants to act joyful and repeat phrases like "Praise God!" and "It's a miracle."

Debrief

Ask: How do you think the Mother felt? How might the son have felt? What do you think those watching thought? (Acknowledge answers.) What does this story tell us about Jesus? (He has compassion for those who grieve; He has power to resurrect dead people) What did Jesus know about death that gave Him a special peace? (It is temporary, not final.)

Write on the board: What the Bible teaches about death:

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called on.

- 1 Read Genesis 2:16; 3:6, 19.** Did God cause death? (No. Death was the result of Adam and Eve's disobedience.)

Write on the board: Death is a result of sin

- 2 Read Genesis 2:7 and Psalm 104:29.** Instruct the family groups to read the verses and solve the math word problems.

Write on the board: 1. $\frac{\text{(Dust)}}{\quad} + \frac{\text{(Breath of life)}}{\quad} = \frac{\text{(Living being)}}{\quad}$
 2. $\frac{\text{(Living being)}}{\quad} - \frac{\text{(Breath of life)}}{\quad} = \frac{\text{(Dust)}}{\quad}$

Allow 2-3 minutes then discuss answers. What do these math problems tell us about death? (A person dies when the breath of life leaves him/her; when a person dies he/she returns to dust.)

- 3 Read Ecclesiastes 12:7.** Where does the breath go when a person dies? (It returns to God who gave it and our bodies return to dust.)

Write on the board: At death our breath returns to God

Activity

Instruct families to take turns blowing bubbles, being careful to watch what happens to the air they breathe into the bubbles.

Ask: How does this activity illustrate death? (Bubbles are like people. They both no longer exist when the air is gone out of them.)

- 4 Read John 11:11-14.** To what did Jesus compare death? (Sleep.)

Write on the board: Death is like sleeping

Say: When we fall asleep each night when we go to bed we don't need to be afraid that we might die. Jesus compared death to sleep because we are not conscious when we are asleep. Have you ever fallen asleep in the car or on the sofa and awakened the next morning in your bed? (Acknowledge answers.) How did you get there? (Someone carried you.) Why didn't you remember being carried? (Because you were not conscious.) That's how death and sleep are alike.

5 **Read Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6.** Some people believe that a dead person is looking down at them or can see them and hear them. What does this text tell us?

Write on the board: Dead people don't know anything

Say: Think of a time when you were on a long trip and felt as if you would never get to your destination. You fell asleep, then the next thing you knew you were there! The hours felt like only a few moments and you were not aware of what was happening around you as you traveled along the way.

6 **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.** What good news does the Bible give us about death? (People will not stay dead forever.)

Say: The Bible teaches us that when Jesus comes again He will resurrect those who died believing in Him. They will go to heaven with Jesus to live with Him forever.

Write on the board: Jesus will resurrect the dead when He comes again

7 **Say:** Thinking about dying can be scary. But Jesus doesn't want us to be afraid of death. He wants us to look forward to His second coming with excitement. **Read Matthew 28:20 (last part).** Why don't we need to be afraid of death or dying?

Write on the board: Jesus is with us always

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking "What does the Bible teach us about death?"
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly a personal experience of finding peace in spite of the death of someone you care about and your hope in the resurrection of that person when Jesus comes.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



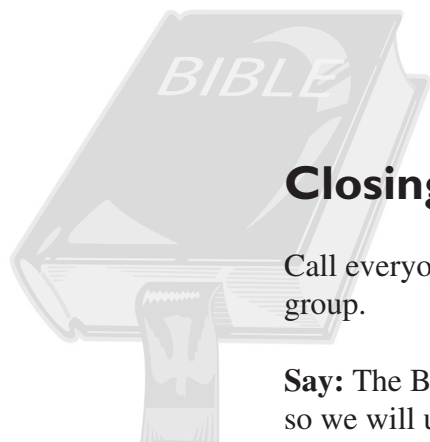
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say: The Bible teaches us about death so we will understand what happens when people die. Jesus doesn't want us to be afraid.

Ask: Did you think of someone to help? (If they did not think of someone encourage them to call the church office for a name.)

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will invite you to share what you did to bring comfort to someone who has lost a loved one in death.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to understand death.**

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for the special peace He gives us about death and dying

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

My Choice

1. **Say** the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to understand death.**
2. Parents/mentors **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

1. Death is a result of sin.....Genesis 2:16; 3:6, 19
2. A living person is made up of the dust of the ground
plus the breath of life.....Genesis 2:7
3. At death the breath leaves the body and the person returns to dustPsalm 104:29
4. At death our breath returns to God..... Ecclesiastes 12:7
5. Jesus compared death to sleepJohn 11:11-14
6. The dead don’t know anything..... Ecclesiastes 9:5-6
7. Jesus will resurrect the dead who died believing in Him..... Thessalonians 4:13-17
8. I don’t need to be afraid of death
because Jesus is always with me..... Matthew 28:20

3. Parents/mentors **Share** briefly an experience you have had with the death of a loved one and the comfort you found in Jesus through that experience. If you have not lost someone close to you, share the Scriptures from this study that give you a feeling of peace in regard to death and dying.
4. **Ask:** Is there anything about death that scares you? What Scriptures from this study can help you with that fear?
5. **THE CHOICE – Ask:** Do you want to be unafraid of death and find hope in Jesus’ resurrection? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
6. **Pray** as a family circle and thank Jesus for the Bible’s teaching about death. Ask Him to help you feel unafraid.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. Use the study review sheet in *My Choice* to discuss the following:

A. Your class takes a field trip to an old building in your town that has been turned into a museum. During the tour, the guide tells you that a ghost sometimes appears to visitors in the building. A classmate says, "I sure hope we see it." How would you respond? What Scriptures from our study would help you?

B. Your friend's grandfather recently died. The grandfather was a Christian and your friend was very close to him. Your friend now talks about his grandfather being in heaven and watching over him. How would you respond to your friend? What Scripture from our study would help you?

C. You go to a neighbor's house after school one day. There are several people there and your friend brings out a game to play together and explains that it's a really fun way to ask questions and get answers from dead people in the "spirit world." How would you respond? What Scriptures from our study would help you?

2. **Ask:** What can we do as a family to help someone who has lost a loved one in death?

Brainstorm for names of people you could help. If you don't know of anyone, call the church office this week and find out who in your congregation has lost someone in death in the past few months. **Brainstorm** for ideas to bring that person comfort or support, such as going to visit him/her, sending a homemade card, etc?

Person:	Ideas:
1.	
2.	
3.	

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share what you did to bring comfort to someone who has lost a loved one in death.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share one reason that you are looking forward to Jesus' second coming.

What Happens When People Die?

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 15

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Genesis 3:4

Activity: Plan a field trip to a local cemetery. Look at the inscriptions on the head stones. What do you learn about the people buried there?

For Discussion: How does a cemetery prove that Satan is a liar? Do people still believe that the dead aren't really dead? Explain your answer.

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for giving you the truth in His word. Ask Him to give you a discerning mind so you will be able to know truth from error.

Choice Two

Scripture: John 11:11-14

Activity: Think about what falling asleep is like. Are you aware of the exact moment when you fall asleep? Is falling asleep a scary experience or a peaceful experience? How do you feel when you wake up? Do you think these might be some of the things Jesus was thinking of when he compared death to sleep? Can you think of any other ways they might be the same?

For Discussion: Faith, a sixth-grader, said, "I always get really sad when people and animals die. Right now it seems like a wall of death is closing around me because I have relatives who have either died or are dying. There are a lot of school shootings, and after September 11th I was really scared. In heaven there won't be any more death or killing, but the very best thing about it is that I'll get to be with Jesus." Does the idea of death being like sleep give you comfort when you think about dying? Why or why not? Do you know anyone who is afraid of dying? What can you say to help that person have peace?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for telling us that death is like sleeping and for giving us peace about dying.

Choice Three

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6

Activity: Find the obituary section of your local newspaper and read the obituaries of several people. What can you learn about the person who died? Why do you think people put in remembrance notices years after someone has died?

For Discussion: Why do you think people go to so much trouble to honor the dead? Does it help the person who has died? What difference does it make if dead people are aware of life on earth and what happens to those who are still alive? What if dead people could influence the lives of those who are still living?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for His promise that the dead are really dead and have no influence over what goes on for the living.

Choice Four

Scripture: Job 7:9, 10; 2 Corinthians 11:14

Activity: Do a little research into your town's history and see if any buildings are reported to be haunted.

For Discussion: When people say they have seen ghosts, do you believe them? Why or why not? What do you think they have seen? Would Satan want people to believe in ghosts? Why or why not?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for His word, which gives us the confidence to know the truth. Ask Him to send someone to you who needs to know the truth about what happens when someone dies.

Choice Five

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Activity: Many elderly people who have lost a spouse are lonely. If you don't know someone in that position, ask your pastor or church secretary if they can suggest someone. Make an appointment to visit that person and keep the appointment.

For Discussion: Does the hope of a resurrection make the death of a loved one any easier? Why or why not? How can belonging to a community of believers help when someone dies? Are you doing your share as part of a loving church family to help those who experience the death of a loved one?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for the promise of the resurrection. Ask Him to send someone to you who needs encouragement following the death of a loved one. Ask Him to help you be a loving support to that person.

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 16

For Kids

Jesus' Second Coming and Your Future

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)



Say: Last week we learned what the Bible teaches about the subject of death. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did to bring comfort to someone who has lost a loved one in death.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** Jesus is coming soon to take them to heaven
- **Feel** sure of their future with Jesus
- **Respond** by trusting Jesus to keep His word

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Divide the participants into pairs. Give each pair a coin, a piece of paper and a pencil. One person is to call “heads” or “tails.” The other person is to toss the coin then record whether or not the caller’s prediction was correct. Repeat for a total of 10 tosses then exchange roles for another 10 tosses.

Debrief

Ask: How well did you predict the future? (Acknowledge answers.) By the laws of probabilities you should have called about half of the coin tosses correctly. When you think about predicting your own future, what do you hope for? (Acknowledge answers.) What do you think God wants for your future? (Acknowledge answers.)

Say: One thing we can know about our future is that Jesus has a plan for it. Let’s discover what that plan is.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.

You need

- Coins, one for each pair of participants
- One sheet of note paper for each pair
- Pens/pencils



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board: **Jesus wants us to be with Him forever.**

Bible Discovery

Write on the board: What the Bible teaches about the future

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called on.

Write the following chart on the board:

Second Coming	Millennium	New Earth

As you go through each of the texts in the Bible Discovery, place the “**Write on the board**” summaries listed on the chart as follows: numbers 1-3 under “Second Coming;” numbers 4-6 under “Millennium;” numbers 7-8 under “New Earth.” Place number 9 under the chart.

You need

- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families as they arrive. Be sure to include the number reference on each one.

1 Read John 14:1-3. What did Jesus promise His followers? (That He was going to prepare a place for them in His Father's house; that He would come back to get them to take them there.)

Say: Before Jesus returned to Heaven, He promised to prepare a place in heaven for His followers then come back to earth to get them.

Write on the board: Jesus will come again

2 Read Revelation 1:7. Who will see Jesus when He returns? (Everyone; those who killed Him; all the people on the earth.)

Say: Jesus' return will not be a secret.

Write on the board: Every person on earth will see Jesus come

3 Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17. What will happen when Jesus returns? (He will give a loud command and the dead in Christ will be resurrected; those who are alive will meet them in the air and they will all go with Jesus to heaven.)

Say: Those people who died believing in Jesus will be resurrected when they hear Jesus' call to them. Jesus' followers who are alive when He comes will be translated — this means that they will go to heaven without dying.

Write on the board: Jesus will take every person who believes in Him to heaven

4 Read Revelation 20:1-6. What will happen to Satan? (He will be chained for 1,000 years.)

Write on the board: Satan will be bound for 1,000 years

Ask: What will the saints be doing for 1,000 years? (They will reign with Christ and will judge.)

Write on the board: God's people will reign with Jesus and judge the wicked

Say: We call this thousand year period the millennium. During this time Satan and his angels will have no one to tempt because the righteous are in heaven and the wicked are all dead. For 1,000 years Satan will think about what he has done in fighting against God and in bringing misery and suffering to the world. In heaven, the righteous will be reviewing God's records. They will review the actions of the wicked and know that Jesus' blood cannot save them because they chose to reject His salvation.

5 Read Revelation 20:7-9. What happens at the end of the millennium? (Satan is released and gathers the wicked to battle God one last time. Fire comes down from heaven and destroys them all.)

Write on the board: Satan and all sinners will be destroyed

6 Read Nahum 1:9. What does this verse say the Lord will bring to an end? (Whatever they plot against Him.) What will not come a second time? (Trouble.) Why do you think it is important for everyone to review the entire history of Satan's warfare against God? (So that sin will never happen again.)

Say: At the end of the 1,000 years, everyone will know the consequences of sin. They will understand clearly that sin is rebellion against God, that it causes suffering, sorrow and death. No one will ever want to sin again.

Write on the board: Sin will never happen again

7 Read Revelation 21:1-4. What will happen once God has taken care of all sin and all sinners? (God will create a new earth; He will remove all sorrow and pain; God will dwell with the human family on the new earth.)

Write on the board: God will make a new earth and dwell forever with His people

8 Read Revelation 22:1-5. From this description of the new earth, what do you think will be the best thing about being there? (Being able to see Jesus face to face.)

Write on the board: We will see Jesus face to face

9 In Matthew 24 Jesus said, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come....so you also must be ready. **Read 1 John 2:28.** What do we need to do to be ready for the future that Jesus has prepared for us? (Continue in Him.) What do you think this means? (Staying connected to Jesus.)

Write on the board: We can be ready by staying connected to Jesus

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What can you tell me about the second coming... the millennium... the new earth?"
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly one reason that you are looking forward to Jesus' Second Coming and being with Him in heaven.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



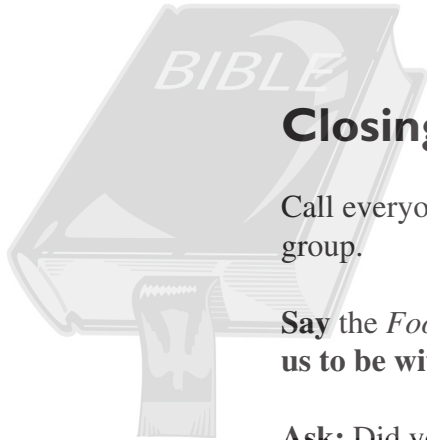
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to be with Him forever.**

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Ask: Did you think of a way to show Jesus that you are excited that He is coming again?

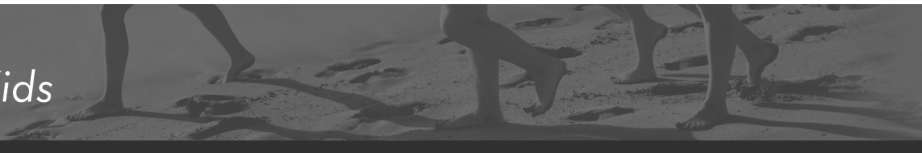
Grace Point — Say: Next week I will ask you to share with us what you did to show Jesus you are excited that He is coming again.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for His promise to come again and take us to live with Him forever

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

FOOTPRINTS *For Kids*



My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to be with Him forever.**
2. Parents/mentors **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

1. Jesus will come again.....John 14:1-3
2. Every person on earth will see Jesus come Revelation 7:1
3. Those dead in Christ will be resurrected and go to heaven..... 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17
4. Those alive in Christ will go to heaven..... 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17
5. Satan will be bound for 1,000 years.....Revelation 20:1-6
6. God’s people will reign with Jesus and judge the wickedRevelation 20:1-6
7. Satan and all sinners will be destroyedRevelation 20:7-9
8. Sin will never happen again Nahum 1:9 (b)
9. God will make a new earth and dwell forever with His peopleRevelation 21:1-4
10. We will see Jesus face to faceRevelation 22:1-5
11. We can be ready for Jesus’ coming by staying connected to Him 1 John 2:28

3. Parents/mentors **Share** one reason that you are looking forward to Jesus’ second coming.
Ask: What do you most look forward to when Jesus comes?
4. **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Do you want to show Jesus that you are excited that He is coming soon to take us all to heaven? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** together telling Jesus how excited you are that He will come to take you to heaven with Him.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Ask:** Is there anything about the events of the future that makes you feel afraid or worried?
2. **Review 1 John 2:28. Discuss** what your family can do to be ready for Jesus to come.
3. **Brainstorm** for ways to show Jesus that you are excited that He is coming soon to take you to heaven, such as share the good news with someone else, use music to praise Him, etc.

Ideas

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Grace Point — Next week you will be asked to share with us what you did to show Jesus you are excited that He is coming again.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share an experience of encouraging another church member or of having another church member encourage you. What difference did this support make? Where did you see Jesus at work in this experience?

Jesus' Second Coming and Your Future

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 16

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Isaiah 65:17

Activity: Take a walk with your family and look for signs that this earth is aging. Do you see things like pollution, loud noises, hungry animals and poor people?

For Discussion: “It will be so wonderful when Jesus comes back because He will make this earth new over again,” said Emma Rose, a fourth-grader. “It won’t be old anymore. The best part is that there won’t be any sin. We don’t have any idea what it will be like to live on an earth with no sin!” What things about this earth show that it is getting old? Emma Rose is excited about living on an earth without sin. What most excites you about the earth made new?

Prayer Point: Pray that God will help you find ways to care for this earth and do your part to protect it from further aging. Praise God for His promise of a new earth.

Choice Two

Scripture: John 14:1-3

Activity: Memorize this Scripture. As you are learning it, write it on nice paper in your best handwriting and hang it where others in your family can see it.

For Discussion: Do you know anyone who worries when they think about Jesus coming again? Do you sometimes worry? What do you worry about? Why?

Prayer Point: Thank God for the wonderful promise He has given us in John 14:1-3. If you have any worries, confess them to Him and tell Him that you place your trust in Him.

Choice Three

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:9

Activity: Create a list of things you look forward to in your future school projects? or field trips? Vacation? College? Marriage and a family?

For Discussion: Sometimes kids say they don't want Jesus to come yet because they want a chance to grow up, get married, etc. Have you ever felt that way? What do you think when you hear that God has created something so wonderful for us we can't even imagine it? Is it wrong to look forward to your future here on earth? Do you think older people seem more eager than younger people for Jesus to come? Why or why not?

Prayer Point: Thank God for creating a future for us that is so awesome we can't even begin to imagine it.

Choice Four

Scripture: Matthew 24:27, 30, 31; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

Activity: Close your eyes and imagine that Jesus is returning to earth. What do you see? Hear? Feel?

For Discussion: What for you is the most exciting part of Jesus' second coming? Is it seeing a loved one who has died? Floating up in the clouds to meet Him? Something else?

Prayer Point: Tell Jesus what excites you most about His second coming. Ask Him to come quickly to take you home to live with Him.

Choice Five

Scripture: Isaiah 65:17-25; Revelation 21:1-4

Activity: Draw a picture of what you imagine the new earth to be like. Who is there? What are they doing?

For Discussion: What about the Scriptures you read today makes you want to praise God? Is there anything you need to confess to God?

Prayer Point: Thank God for the wonderful future He has planned for you.

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 17

For Kids

You and Your Church Family!

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

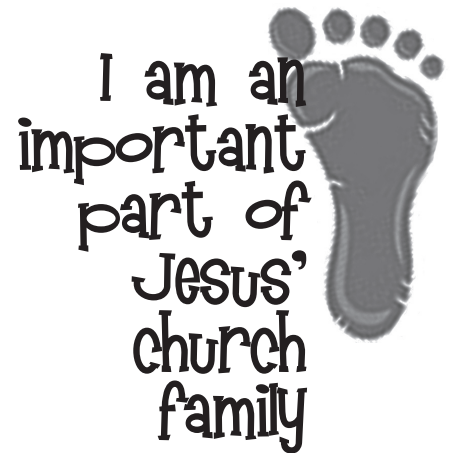
Say: Last week we learned about Jesus' second coming, and that He wants us to be with Him forever. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did to show Jesus that you are excited about His soon coming and being with Him in heaven.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that they are an important part of the church family
- **Feel** excited about being needed by their church family
- **Respond** by taking responsibility for helping the church family grow



*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Divide everyone into groups of three and assign each number 1, or 2, or 3.

Say: The goal of this activity is to work together as a single body and complete a simple task. When I say “begin” work together to tear your papers in half then tape each half together into one large sheet [they will have 6 half sheets]. You must follow the instructions printed on the marker board.

Signal “begin” when everyone is ready.

Debrief

Ask: How did it feel to be part of a body? (Acknowledge answers.) What would have happened if you did not have each person in your group? (You would not have been able to complete the task.) How does this activity show our need for each other in the church? (We need each person to do his/her part.)

Say: The activity could only be completed by working together because each person played a special role. We are all part of God’s family — the church — and each person in the church family has a special role.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.

You need

- Marker board
- One tape dispenser for each group of 3
- One sheet of 8 ½ x 11 paper for each participant
- Blindfolds (optional)

Ahead

Write the following instructions on the board: “Throughout this activity...

1. All “1s” may only use your left hand, place your right arm behind your back. Keep your eyes closed. You may not speak.
2. All “2s” may only use your right hand, place your left arm behind your back. Keep your eyes closed. You may not speak.
3. All “3s” may not use either hand, place both arms behind back. You may keep your eyes open and you may speak.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
I am an important part of Jesus' church family.

Activity

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-20, 27 around the circle with one person reading one text until all the verses are read.

Ask: What symbol is used for the church?
(A body.)

Distribute the slips of paper with the "challenges" to volunteers. Blindfold all the Number 1s; tie the hands of all the Number 2s; tie the feet of all the Number 3s; tape the mouths of all the Number 4s. One at a time ask them to stand in the center of the circle. Give simple instructions that cannot be carried out by that person, such as for Number 1, "Please read this verse"; for Number 2 "Please walk over to that table and bring (name item) to me," etc.

Debrief

Ask: How does this activity help us understand the importance of each member of the church family? (Without each member the church can't accomplish its job.)

Ask a volunteer to **read Colossians 1:18 (first part)**.

Ask: Who is the head of the church? (Jesus.) Why is it important for church members to know that Jesus is the head of the church? (Acknowledge answers – Jesus is the One who is in charge of the church.)

Write on the board: What Jesus wants for His church family

You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- Blindfolds / rope / tape
- Slips of paper with "challenges"

Ahead

Write the following on slips of paper (Make sure you have one challenge for each child: 1) You cannot use your eyes, 2) You cannot use your feet, 3) You cannot use your hands, 4) You cannot use your mouth.

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families as they arrive. Be sure to include the number reference.

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families and instruct them to look up their verse and be prepared to read it to the class. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called.

1 Read John 17:23. This passage in John records Jesus' prayer for His disciples. What does Jesus say His disciples must "be brought to"? (Complete unity.) Why is complete unity important according to this verse? (To let the world know that Jesus was sent from God.)

Write on the board: To experience unity

2 Read Hebrews 10:25. Find two things that church members are to do. (Continue to meet together and encourage each other.)

Write on the board: To meet together

Write on the board: To encourage each other

3 Read Acts 12:5. What did the church members do when Peter was in prison? (They prayed for him.)

Write on the board: To pray for each other

4 Read John 13:34, 35. What command did Jesus give His disciples? (Love each other.)

Write on the board: To love each other

5 Read Galatians 6:1. The Bible writer tells "spiritual" people to help someone. Whom does this verse say should be helped? (A person caught in sin.) How is this to be done? (Gently and with care to not fall to temptation.)

Write on the board: To gently restore those broken by sin

6 Read Acts 13:1-5. What did the church send Paul and Barnabas to do? (Proclaim the word of God.) What do we call people like Paul and Barnabas who go to share the gospel with others? (Missionaries.)

Write on the board: To send missionaries to share the gospel

Say: Jesus has a dream for His church. He wants each member to be part of a fellowship of believers who care about each other and share the gospel with others. Jesus wants His church family to grow — closer to Him, closer to each other and closer to those who need to know about Him.

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What does Jesus want for His church family?"
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly an experience you have had as a member of the church in one of the areas covered by the Bible study. How did this experience teach you the importance of being a member of Jesus' church family?

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders:

While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time "warning" to the other families such as, "Please finish in three more minutes." Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say the *Footprint* together: **I am an important part of Jesus' church family.**

Say: Jesus needs you to help Him. He needs you to take your place as an important member of His church — to find ways right now to participate in church life and help other church members.

Ask: Did you think of someone to help this week and something specific to do for him/her? (Acknowledge responses.)

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will ask you to share what you did to help another church member.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus that we each are an important part of His church
- asking Him to help us each find ways right now to help our church family

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **I am an important part of Jesus' church family.**
2. Parents/mentors **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, "Do you understand what this means?" or "Do you have any questions about this one?" Clarify any points as needed.

Jesus wants each member of His church family to...

1. ...know they are important members of the church body.. 1 Corinthians 12:12-20, 27
2. ...know that Jesus is the head of the churchColossians 1:18 (a)
3. ...experience unityJohn 17:20-26
4. ...continue to meet together 1 Thessalonians 4:11
5. ...encourage each other..... 1 Thessalonians 4:11
6. ...pray for each other Acts 12:5
7. ...love each otherJohn 13:34, 35
8. ...restore those broken by sin Galatians 6:1
9. ...send missionaries to share the gospelActs 13:1-5

3. Parents/mentors **Share** briefly a personal experience of encouraging another church member or of having a church member encourage you. What difference did this make? How did you see Jesus at work in this experience?
4. **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Would you like to find ways to help our church family? If your child says "Yes," affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says "No" or "Not now," **Say:** It's all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** together and thank Jesus that you are an important part of His church family. Ask Him to help you find ways to help others in the church.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Brainstorm** for a list of people in your church family whom you could help in some way this coming week. Whom can you help? What can you do?

People we can help:	What we can do:
Single parents with children Sick Elderly Widows/Widowers Other	

2. Select one person from your list. **Discuss** a time to help this person and what you need to make or buy in order to fulfill your plans.
3. **Brainstorm** for things you could do as individuals or as a family to contribute to church life, such as help in a Sabbath school division with preparation of materials or set up/tear down; write notes to church members who miss church; participate in music or scripture readings, help with pot-luck meals, etc.

Things we can do to help our church:	
Sabbath School Divisions Church Service Pot-luck Communication Other	

4. **Discuss** Whom do you need to talk to at church in order to volunteer to help in the above areas? Which person(s) in your family will talk to him/her to volunteer your help?

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share what you did to help another church member.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked, if applicable, to share your baptism experience. When did you make the decision to be baptized? How did you feel before, during and after your baptism? What made this experience special for you?

You and Your Church Family!

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 17

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Ephesians 4:16

Activity: Molly, a sixth-grader, said, “One of my favorite Sabbath activities is singing. One of the songs that I have sung at church is ‘We are His Hands.’ Singing is a fun way for me to worship and let God know how much I love Him.” Sing this beautiful song together. If you are not familiar with the tune then read it together alternating readers at each line.

We Are His Hands

We are His hands to touch the world around us.
 We are His feet to go where He may lead.
 And we are His light burning in the darkness.
 We are His love shining in the night.
 We are His eyes to see the need in others.
 We are His voice to tell of His return.
 And we are His light burning in the darkness.
 We are His love shining in the night.

—Jeff Wood

For Discussion: Who is the “we” referring to in the song? Be specific. In what ways does having a church family make it easier to “touch the world around us?”

Prayer Point: Thank God for giving you a church to belong to. Ask Him to show you where He needs your hands, feet, eyes and love to touch the world around you.

Choice Two

Scripture: Ephesians 4:3

Activity: Make a list of times when you may have been a little unhappy toward a member of your home or church family.

For Discussion: What effort could you have made to “keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace?” Is it harder to make the effort to keep the unity of the Spirit or to grumble and quarrel? Why?

Prayer Point: Ask God to make you willing to make the effort to stay unified, even if that means giving up something (like your pride). Ask Him to help you value unity over being right.

Choice Three

Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-13

Activity: Make a list of the reasons mentioned in these verses for God giving different talents to different people. Can you find four? Are you using your talents for these reasons?

For Discussion: Which of the jobs listed in these verses is the most important? The least? Why did you choose what you did?

Prayer Point: Thank God for His church, where you can be prepared for works of service and help build up the body of Christ. Ask that He will give your church unity and help you become a mature Christian.

Choice Four

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12

Activity: Draw a simple outline of a body and label it with different people in your church who perform important functions.

For Discussion: To which part of the body would you compare yourself? Why? Which are the most important parts of the body of Christ? Are any parts unimportant? If you were to cut off a certain part of your body would it hurt more or less than another part? Why? How does that relate to members of your church?

Prayer Point: Thank God for giving you a body of believers to belong to. Ask Him to help you find your place in the body.

Choice Five

Scripture: John 17:20-23

Activity: Look up the word “unity” in the dictionary. Where does it come from? How many similar or related words can you think of?

For Discussion: Today’s Scripture comes from Jesus’ last prayer for His disciples before He died. Why do you think He prayed specifically for unity? Why did Jesus want them to have unity? What is the message for us today? How do we get unity?

Prayer Point: Ask God to help you put Him first in everything and to give you a mind like His.

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 18

For Kids

Follow Jesus in Baptism and Communion

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

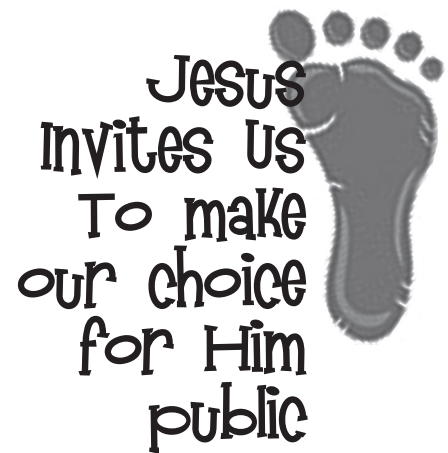
Say: Last week we learned that each member is an important part of Jesus' church family. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did to help another church member.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** the meaning of baptism and the communion service
- **Feel** eager to follow the example that Jesus set
- **Respond** by choosing to be baptized when the Holy Spirit impresses him/her



*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Instruct participants to sit or stand in a circle. Invite a volunteer to step outside the room while the group chooses a leader. The leader will start the group in a series of motions such as patting their heads, rubbing their tummies, clapping their hands, stomping their feet, slapping their thighs etc., changing the motion often. Once the action has started, bring the volunteer back into the room and have him/her guess who the leader is. If time allows select another person to be “it.”

Debrief

Ask: How was (name) able to identify the leader? (By watching the actions of the group closely.) What are some ways we follow the leader in real life? (Clothes we choose to wear, hairstyles we adopt, sports and hobbies we engage in, etc.) Who are some of the leaders you follow? (Acknowledge answers.) What makes you safe in following Jesus as your leader? (Acknowledge answers.)

Say: For the last few months we have been on an adventure in discipleship following Jesus. More than anything else, I hope you have come to feel safe following Jesus wherever He leads you.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board: **Jesus invites us to make our choice for Him public.**

Bible Discovery

Say: Today we are going to look at two examples that Jesus gave us to follow.

Write the following chart on the board:

Baptism	Communion

As you go through the texts place the “**Write on the board**” summaries listed on the chart as follows: numbers 1-4 under “**Baptism**” and numbers 5-6 under “**Communion**.”

1 Read Mark 16:16. Who does this verse say will be saved? (Whoever believes and is baptized.)

Say: In this passage Jesus connects being baptized with believing. The first thing that needs to be in place before baptism is believing in Jesus.

Write on the board: Believe in Jesus

2 Read Acts 2:37, 38. What did Peter tell these people to do before they were baptized? (Repent.) What does it mean to “repent?” (To be sorry for the sins you have committed.)

Say: True repentance is being so sorry for what you did that you don’t ever want to do it again. You turn away from your sin.

Write on the board: Repent of your sins

You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families as they arrive. Be sure to include the number reference.

What gift did Peter say they would receive? (The Holy Spirit.)

Say: When we are baptized by water we also receive the Holy Spirit in a special way.

Write on the board: Receive the Holy Spirit in a special way

3 Read Matthew 3:13-17. Did Jesus need to turn away from sin? (No.) Then why was He baptized? (Because He knew that we would need to repent of our sins, and He was setting an example for us to follow.)

How was Jesus baptized? (He went all the way under the water.)

Say: When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist He went all the way under the water; we call this being immersed. Baptism by immersion demonstrates dying to sin, being buried, then being raised to a new life in Jesus.

Activity

Invite a volunteer to help you demonstrate baptism. Have the volunteer stand in front of you with his feet together facing your left arm. Have him place his hands on your forearm like he would grab a baseball bat. Have a washcloth in your left hand. Tell him to bend at the knees as you place the washcloth over his nose and mouth and lower him down then raise him up.

Write on the board: Be baptized like Jesus

4 Read 1 Corinthians 12:13. What does this verse say that we are baptized into? (One body.)
Read verse 27. What is the body of Christ? (The church.)

Say: We are baptized into the body of Christ which is His church. So when you come up out of the water you are a member of your church family.

Write on the board: Be baptized into the body of Christ — His church

5 Say: The night before Jesus died the last meal He had with His disciples was very special. It was the Passover meal. During this meal Jesus gave His disciples another example to follow.
Read John 13:3-15 around the circle with each participant reading one verse.

Ask: Why do you think Peter didn't want Jesus to wash His feet? (Peter didn't like the idea that Jesus was doing this humble act that should have been done by a servant.)

Say: Washing feet in Bible times was the work of a servant. At this Passover meal there was no servant present to wash everyone's dusty feet as they entered the room. Peter considered Jesus too good to be doing a servant's work and, in fact, he considered himself too good to do this task, as did all the other disciples. Jesus gave them all an example by willingly taking upon Himself the humble role of a servant. By following Jesus' example and washing each other's feet we are reminded of two things: 1) we will always need Jesus to wash away our sins and 2) Jesus calls us to serve others just as He did.

Write on the board: Humbly serve each other by washing each other's feet

Activity

Invite a volunteer to help you demonstrate foot washing. For demonstration: have him sit in a chair. He can keep his shoes on. Demonstrate praying with him before washing his feet. Ask God to wash away his/her sins. Take first one foot, place it in the basin (without water), act like you are washing it and then drying it. Repeat with the other foot.

Say: Before we take part in the bread and juice of the Lord's Supper, we follow Jesus' example and wash one another's feet. This shows that we have allowed Jesus to wash away our sins and that we are willing to humbly serve others as He did.

Write on the board: We will always need Jesus to wash away our sins

6 Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. What did Jesus say the bread represents? (His body.) What did Jesus say the juice represents? (His blood.)

Say: Jesus told us to remember Him when we eat the bread and drink the juice. He wanted us to remember that on the Cross His body was broken for us; His blood was shed for us. Jesus wants us to understand that He gave His life for us because He loves us. When we celebrate the Lord's Supper we are following the example that Jesus gave us at His last Passover meal.

Write on the board: Jesus gave His body and blood for us because He loves us

Activity

Invite a volunteer to help you demonstrate the Lord's Supper. For demonstration: give him a piece of unleavened bread. **Say:** When you eat the bread during Communion it is your way of saying to Jesus, "I accept You as my Savior." Give the grape juice and **Say:** When you drink the grape juice during Communion, it is your way of saying to Jesus, "Thank you for dying for me"

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "Tell me about baptism... Tell me about the Lord's Supper..."
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly share your experience of being baptized. How was it a special day for you?

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus invites us to make our choice for Him public.**

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Say: If the Holy Spirit is impressing you to plan for your baptism, talk to me after class. (Or make some other arrangement for the students to let you or let the pastor know their decision.)

Ask: Did you think of a way to humbly serve another person in your family?

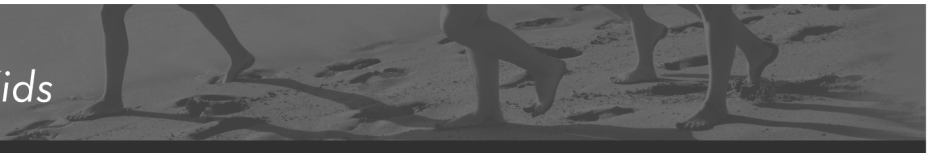
Grace Point — Say: Next week I will ask you to share what you did to serve another person in your family.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for being our example
- asking Him to help those who need to make their choice for Jesus public in baptism

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

FOOTPRINTS *For Kids*



My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus invites us to make our choice for Him public.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

Baptism — Jesus left us an example in His baptism:

1. Believe in JesusMark 16:16
2. Repent of your sins Acts 2:37, 38
3. Receive the Holy Spirit in a special way..... Acts 2:37, 38
4. Be baptized like Jesus by immersionMatthew 3:13-17
5. Be baptized into God’s church..... 1 Corinthians 12:13, 27

The Lord’s Supper — Jesus left us an example in Communion:

1. Humbly serve each other by washing each other’s feet.....John 13:3-15
2. The Foot Washing ceremony reminds us that
we need Jesus to wash away our sins.....John 13:3-15
3. Jesus gave His body and blood for us because He loves us.... 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

3. Parents/mentors: If applicable, **share** your baptism experience. When did you make the decision to be baptized? How did you feel before, during and after your baptism? What made this experience special for you?
4. **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Do you want to be baptized when the Holy Spirit tells you it is time? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** together and thank Jesus for giving us His example to follow. Ask Him to help you always be ready to follow Him.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Ask:** If your child has already been baptized: What was special about your baptism?
If your child has not yet been baptized: What do you look forward to about being baptized?
2. **Ask:** Is there anything about being baptized that worries or scares you?
3. **Ask:** How would you feel to have me kneel on the floor in front of you and wash your feet?
Why?
4. **Discuss:** What can we do in our family to follow Jesus' example and humbly serve each other?

How we can humbly serve each other in our family

For example: Do another person's chores, help with a homework assignment, etc.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Grace Point — Next week you will be asked to share what you did to serve another person in your family.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share how you have used one of your spiritual gifts to serve another. If you don't know what your spiritual gifts are, you can share a talent you have used to benefit others. You will be asked to help your child take a spiritual gifts inventory at home.

Follow Jesus in Baptism and Communion

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 18

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Matthew 3:1, 2, 5, 6; Matthew 28:19, 20

Activity: Make a list of things the Bible says you should do before you are baptized. Check off the ones you have done. If you have not been baptized and would like to be, tell your parent, your pastor, or another adult about your decision.

For Discussion: Anthony, a seventh-grader, said, “I have decided I want to be baptized because I love and trust Jesus and am thankful that He died for me. I am studying and getting ready right now. Some of my friends have already been baptized and I am really looking forward to being baptized, too.” Compare what Anthony said about baptism to today’s Scripture. What, if anything, does Anthony still need to do before he is baptized?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for the example He has given us. Ask Him to help you become more like Him each day.

Choice Two

Scripture: Acts 16:16-34

Activity: Make an acrostic with the word “baptism,” using each letter to start another word that tells something you should do before you are baptized.

For Discussion: How long had this man and his family known about Jesus before they were baptized? What were the requirements for baptism for this man and his family? Is it hard or easy to be saved?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for accepting you right now, just as you are.

Choice Three

Scripture: Acts 8:26-39

Activity: Use a world atlas to find Jerusalem, Gaza and Ethiopia.

For Discussion: What was the man doing in Jerusalem? Who do you think prompted him to read the book of Isaiah? How does the Bible say Philip found this man? Who suggested that this man be baptized? Was he eager or reluctant? Why?

Prayer Point: Thank God for His Holy Spirit, who is always at work in our lives. Ask Him to send someone to you whom you can tell about the good news of Jesus.

Choice Four

Scripture: John 13:3-15

Activity: Take a walk on a hot dusty road with bare feet or sandals (weather permitting). Then wash each other's feet in cool water before entering the house.

For Discussion: How did it feel to have your hot, dusty feet washed? What did the water look like? What are the spiritual comparisons?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for continually being willing to wash you clean.

Choice Five

Scripture: Matthew 26:26-28; John 1:29

Activity: Bake unleavened bread with your family.

For Discussion: Review the story of the last meal eaten by the Hebrew slaves in Egypt before they were freed from slavery. You'll find it in Exodus 12. Find similarities with Jesus' last meal before He freed us from sin.

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for being the Passover Lamb who died for our sins.

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 19

For Kids

Discover Jesus' Vision for You

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses)

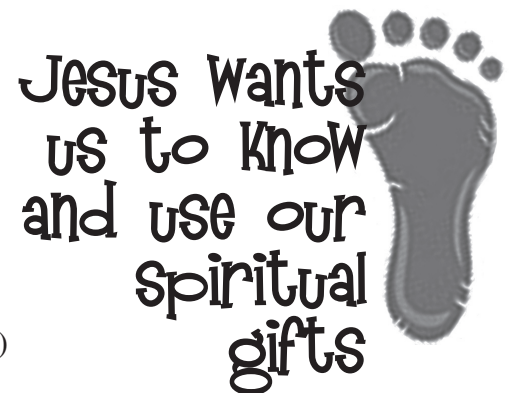
Say: Last week we learned that Jesus wants us to follow His example in baptism and The Lord's Supper. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did to humbly serve another person in your family.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** which spiritual gifts God may have given them
- **Feel** excited about God's plans for their lives
- **Respond** by looking for ways to use their gifts in ministry



*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Place the tools on a table and invite the participants to each select a tool that they know how to use and would enjoy using.

Instruct them to form small groups of 3-5 people and tell each other why they selected their tool and how they could use it.

Debrief

Ask: What is the purpose of a tool? (To help us complete a job or task or accomplish something.) Why is it important to have different tools to use? (Different tasks require different tools.)

Say: In our lesson today we are going to learn about different tools that the Holy Spirit has given to us and why they are important.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.

You need

- A selection of tools such as:
 - Cell phone
 - Marker
 - Artist pencil
 - Paint brush
 - Hammer
 - Soup ladle
 - Scissors
 - Book
 - Laptop computer
 - Etc.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus wants us to know and use our spiritual gifts.

Activity

Invite volunteers to be the Narrator, Moses, and the Sign Holder. Distribute copies of the script for "What's in Your Hand?" to these three participants. Instruct Moses to act out any actions the Narrator reads. Instruct the remaining participants to read the signs when they are held up by the Sign Holder.

Say: There is an amazing story in Exodus chapters 3 and 4 about a man called by God. As you listen, look for how Moses responded to the job God wanted him to do and how God equipped Moses to do this job.

"What's in Your Hand?"

Narrator One day while Moses was tending sheep in the desert, he led his flock to the base of the "Mountain of God." There the angel of the Lord appeared in flames of fire coming from a burning bush. Moses saw that even though the bush was on fire, it did not burn up.

Moses Hm-m-m. I have never seen such a strange sight – a bush that burns, but doesn't burn up. I'm going to go closer and take a good look at this strange sight.

Narrator When the Lord saw that Moses had come closer to look, God called to him from within the bush.

**ALL
Sign 1** God will attract your attention

You need

- 3 photo copies of the script
- 8 poster board signs

Ahead

Prepare 8 signs with the following:

1. God will attract your attention
2. God will call you
3. God will show you the need
4. God will give you a job to do
5. God will be with you
6. God will tell you what to say
7. God will equip you with spiritual gifts
8. God will give you success

Narrator God said, “Moses, Moses.”

ALL
Sign 2 God will call you

Moses (Fearfully) Here I am!

Narrator Then God told Moses, “Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off because the place where you are standing is Holy Ground.” [Pause while “Moses” removes his/her shoes.] Then God told Moses, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” At this Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God. With great compassion God said to Moses, “I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out and I see their suffering. I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians.”

ALL
Sign 3 God will show you the need

Narrator God then commanded Moses to go to Pharaoh and bring His people out of Egypt.

ALL
Sign 4 God will give you a job to do

Narrator But Moses did not jump at this opportunity to return to Egypt. He had many objections to God’s plan to use him.

Moses (In a trembling voice) Me? Who am I that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?

Narrator God gave Moses courage with a promise that He would be with him.

ALL
Sign 5 God will be with you

Moses What if I go to the Israelites and say, “God has sent me,” and they say, “What is His name?” What do I tell them?

Narrator God answered Moses saying, “Tell them I AM has sent you — The Lord, the God of your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

ALL
Sign 6 God will tell you what to say

Moses What will I do if the people won't listen to me or don't believe me?

Narrator God asked Moses, "What's in your hand?"

Moses A shepherd's staff.

Narrator God said, "Throw it on the ground." Moses threw it on the ground and immediately it turned into a snake. Then God said, "Pick it up by the tail." Moses obeyed and the snake turned back into his staff. "When you perform this miracle the people will believe you."

Moses I can't speak very well.

Narrator God said, "I will help you speak and teach you what to say."

ALL
Sign 7 God will give equip you with spiritual gifts

Moses Please send someone else.

Narrator God said, "Your brother Aaron is on his way to meet you. He will help you. I will tell both of you what to do and say."

Narrator So Moses went back to Egypt with the staff of God in his hand. He led God's people out of slavery and into relationship with the God of their fathers.

ALL
Sign 8 God will give you success

Debrief

Ask: How did Moses respond to God's invitation to work for Him? (He made excuses for why God shouldn't ask him.) What excuses did Moses use? (He wasn't important; they wouldn't believe him; he couldn't talk well.) What reasons do people today or families today give for not using their spiritual gifts for Jesus? (Acknowledge answers; too busy, let someone who is more gifted do it, etc.) How did God equip Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt? (Promised to be with him; promised to give him words to say.)

Bible Discovery

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board: **Jesus wants us to know and use our spiritual gifts.**

Write on the board: Spiritual Gifts.

1 Read 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11 around the circle with one person reading one verse until all the verses have been read.

Ask: Who gives spiritual gifts? (v. 11 — Holy Spirit.)

Write on the board: The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts

Ask: How many different spiritual gifts does 1 Corinthians 12 list? (Nine.)

Say: Other passages in the Bible list additional spiritual gifts.

Write on the board: There are many different spiritual gifts

Ask: How do we know that different gifts are given to different people? (This passage says one person receives one gift, another person receives another gift.) Why do you think God gives different gifts to different people? (There are many different jobs that need to be done.)

Write on the board: Different people receive different gifts

2 Read Ephesians 4:11-13. Why are spiritual gifts important? (To prepare God's people for works of service; to build up the church; to help us reach unity in faith and become mature in Christ.)

Write on the board: Spiritual gifts prepare God's people for works of service

Write on the board: Spiritual gifts build up the church

Write on the board: Using our spiritual gifts builds our faith and helps us grow

3 Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. How should we use our spiritual gifts? (To bring glory to God.)

Write on the board: Use spiritual gifts to glorify God

4 Read Philippians 4:13. What if, like Moses, you don't feel able to do what God is calling you to do?

Write on the board: Remember you can do anything with Jesus' help

Say: God chooses ordinary people and gives them a job to do for Him. Then the Holy Spirit gives the spiritual gifts needed to accomplish that job.

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "Tell me about spiritual gifts..."
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.

You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families as they arrive. Be sure to include the number reference.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly an experience when someone used his / her spiritual gifts to help you or your family OR share one of your spiritual gifts and how the Lord has led you to use it to help the church grow.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Say: When we use the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to us we are blessed and we bless others.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



My World (5-8 Minutes)

Distribute *Discover God's Gifts to You!* handouts to each participant.

Say: This is a tool that can help you to discover the gifts the Holy Spirit may have given you to help build up His church. You will be completing this at home this week.

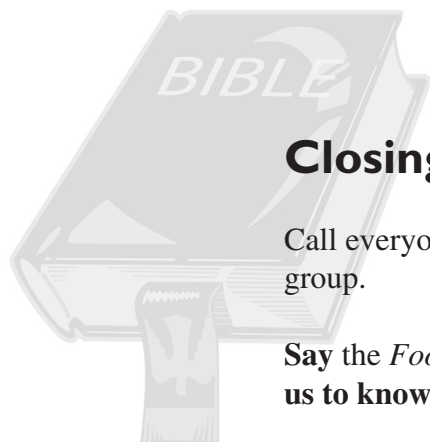
You need

- One copy of *Discover God's Gifts to You!* handout for each person

Read the following points:

- This inventory will give hints that will help each of you get started in figuring out Jesus' vision for your life. It is just the beginning of that process.
- A Spiritual Gifts Inventory helps us discover how Jesus is preparing us to make a difference in the world.
- The gifts included in this inventory are by no means all the gifts. If you don't feel your gifts are included, don't get discouraged. This is just one tool, and it's just a starting point. We're going to talk about this more next week.
- This inventory has no right or wrong answers.
- This is NOT a test.
- Answer according to how you feel at the time you take it.

Say: Please bring your completed inventories back to our group next week.



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to know and use our spiritual gifts.**

Ask: Are you eager to discover what spiritual gifts Jesus may have given you? (Acknowledge responses.)

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will ask you to share your top two spiritual gifts, and how you think Jesus might want you to use them.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking God for providing spiritual gifts to His church
- thanking Him for the opportunity to discover your spiritual gifts
- asking Him to help you know how to use them for Him

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to know and use our spiritual gifts.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

1. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11
2. There are many different spiritual gifts..... 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11
3. Different people receive different gifts 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-11
4. Spiritual gifts prepare God’s people for works of service Ephesians 4:11-13
5. Spiritual gifts build up the church..... Ephesians 4:11-13
6. Use your spiritual gifts to glorify God 1 Corinthians 10:31
7. Remember you can do anything with Jesus’ help..... Philippians 4:13

3. Parents/mentors, if you know your spiritual gifts, **Share** one of them with your child. If you do not presently know what your spiritual gifts are, **Share** your interest in finding out what spiritual gifts you may have.
4. **THE CHOICE – Ask:** Would you like to find out what spiritual gifts you may have? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** together thanking Jesus for giving spiritual gifts to each church member. Ask Him to help you discover your gifts and put them to work for Him.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

To do at home this week:

Parents/mentors: Read the following points made in small group this week:

- This inventory will give hints that will help you get started in figuring out Jesus' vision for your life. It is just the beginning of that process.
- A spiritual gifts inventory helps you discover how Jesus is preparing you to make a difference in the world.
- The gifts included in this inventory are by no means all the gifts. If you don't feel your gifts are included, don't get discouraged. This is just one tool and it's just a starting point. We're going to talk about this more next week at our small group.
- This inventory has no right or wrong answers.
- This is NOT a test.
- Answer according to how you feel about right now.

1. Distribute the spiritual gifts inventory to your child. Read through the directions on the *Discover God's Gifts for You!* inventory together, making sure your child understands the directions.
2. Assist your child as needed to complete the last page and identify the top two spiritual gifts.
3. **Share:** Have each family member share his/her top two spiritual gifts as identified in the spiritual gifts inventory.
4. **Discuss:** What do you think of this Spiritual Gifts Inventory? How do you feel about your spiritual gifts? What do you think God might want you to do with your gifts to help build up the church?

Grace Point — Next week you will be asked to share your top two spiritual gifts, and how you think Jesus might want you to use them.

Next week Parents/mentors, you also will be asked to share your top two spiritual gifts and how you think Jesus might want you to use them.

Discover Jesus' Vision for You

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 19

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1

Activity: Make a crossword puzzle using the names of the spiritual gifts listed in your inventory: evangelist, prophet, teacher, encourager, shepherd, care giver, giver, server, leader, craftsman, knowledge, linguist, creative communicator, prayer partner, and musician. When you are done, ask a member of your family to complete the puzzle.

For Discussion: What have you learned about spiritual gifts in the last week that you didn't know before? Were you surprised by your gifts? Why or why not? Do you know how you can use your gifts to help others find Jesus? If not, whom can you ask for help?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for your gifts. Ask Him to show you where and how He wants you to use them.

Choice Two

Scripture: For today, find the Scripture in your spiritual gifts inventory that corresponds with your strongest gift. If you had two that were equal, pick one.

Activity: Write the name of that gift in fancy writing on nice paper. Decorate it with fancy scissors, cut outs, glitter, beads, or anything else you have at home. Make it look special, then tape it to your bedroom door so everyone will know who lives there.

For Discussion: What about this gift do you find most appealing? Is there anything about it that you are unsure of or that might frighten you? Why do you think Jesus gave you this particular gift? How can you find out more about this gift? What are some ways you can put this gift to use right now?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for choosing this gift especially for you. Promise Him that you will use it to His glory.

Choice Three

Scripture: Romans 12:4-6

Activity: Draw a body and label the parts with different spiritual gifts.

For Discussion: What part of the body would you say your gift or gifts correspond with? Why? What about some of the other gifts? Do you like the way the Bible compares different gifts to different body parts? Why or why not?

Prayer Point: Thank God for the different body parts that all make the body, just as the different spiritual gifts all make the church. Ask Him to show you where He wants you to use your gifts.

Choice Four

Activity: Think of a Bible character having the same spiritual gift or gifts you have. Ask an adult for help if you're having trouble thinking of a Bible character with your gifts.

Scripture: Use a concordance to help you locate that person's story in the Bible and read it. Ask for help if you're having trouble finding it.

For Discussion: How did this person use his or her gift? What happened? What, if anything, about this person's circumstances are similar to yours? Is your ability to use your gift or gifts dependent on your circumstances?

Prayer Point: Thank God for examples in the Bible of people who share your gift. Ask Him to help you put your gift to work for Him.

Choice Five

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 14:12

Activity: Draw a picture of a church, making the walls look like individual bricks. Fill in the bricks with the names of some of the people in your church. In the same block where you write their names, write what you think their gift or gifts might be.

For Discussion: How has God used the various spiritual gifts to build your own church family? What would your church be like without even one of the people in your picture? Are there any gifts you feel your church might be lacking? Why?

Prayer Point: Thank God for providing a wide range of people with different gifts to your church. Ask Him to send people with the gifts your church might be lacking. Ask Him to help you to always use your gifts to build up His church.

Discover God's Gifts to You!

Instructions:

Read the statements on the following pages. Circle the number in the column that best describes how much you **are** like the statement. If you are "Usually" like the statement, circle the 2 at the end of the statement. If you are "Sometimes" like the statement, circle the 1. If you are "Not Very Often" like the statement, circle the 0. When you finish the first box, add up the numbers you have circled. Write the total in the "ADD IT UP" box. Go on until you have finished all fifteen boxes.

	Usually	Sometimes	Not Very Often
1			
I get excited about inviting people to ask Jesus into their heart.	2	1	0
Meeting new people is a fun opportunity to share Jesus.	2	1	0
I look for ways to share my faith in Jesus.	2	1	0
I like to bring my friends to church.	2	1	0
ADD IT UP			

2			
When I see things on TV or listen to the radio I can see God at work.	2	1	0
Sometimes God impresses me to tell somebody something.	2	1	0
I have a clear understanding of what is right and wrong.	2	1	0
If someone around me is doing wrong, I tell because I don't want them to get in trouble.	2	1	0
ADD IT UP			

3			
I get excited when I can help someone understand something.	2	1	0
I like to help others learn.	2	1	0
I like to study.	2	1	0
Other kids often come to me for help in their assignments.	2	1	0
ADD IT UP			

FOOTPRINTS *For Kids*

	Usually	Sometimes	Not Very Often
4			
I love talking with people.	2	1	0
I enjoy telling people good things I notice about them.	2	1	0
I like to bring a smile to someone who is sad.	2	1	0
I like to help people see the brighter side of a situation.	2	1	0
ADD IT UP	<input type="text"/>		
5			
I love to listen while people talk to me.	2	1	0
I care a lot about how others are doing.	2	1	0
If my friend quit coming to church I would talk to them.	2	1	0
I listen patiently while others tell me their problems.	2	1	0
ADD IT UP	<input type="text"/>		
6			
I am gentle with people if they are hurting.	2	1	0
When someone is being laughed at or treated unkindly I help him.	2	1	0
I look for ways to help others get a second chance when they need it.	2	1	0
I look for ways to help others feel better when they are sad.	2	1	0
ADD IT UP	<input type="text"/>		
7			
I like to be a helper where people cannot see me, rather than be up front.	2	1	0
When I have a job to do I finish it.	2	1	0
If someone around me needs help, I help without being asked.	2	1	0
I am willing to do whatever it takes to get something done.	2	1	0
ADD IT UP	<input type="text"/>		

	Usually	Sometimes	Not Very Often
8			
I let others know I love them by giving them gifts.	2	1	0
I am happy when I can give what I have to others.	2	1	0
When people give me money I get excited about using it for God's work.	2	1	0
I get excited when I have money to give at church.	2	1	0
ADD IT UP	<input type="text"/>		

	Usually	Sometimes	Not Very Often
9			
I am usually the one who thinks up the things my friends and I do together.	2	1	0
Kids often follow me and do what I do.	2	1	0
I like to ask others to help me do big projects.	2	1	0
I like to organize people.	2	1	0
ADD IT UP	<input type="text"/>		

	Usually	Sometimes	Not Very Often
10			
I love to make things with my hands.	2	1	0
It is fun to create things out of wood, paper, cloth, yarn, etc.	2	1	0
I look at wood, paper, or other materials and think of what I can make.	2	1	0
Learning to make things is easy for me.	2	1	0
ADD IT UP	<input type="text"/>		

	Usually	Sometimes	Not Very Often
11			
I love to study and learn.	2	1	0
When someone needs to know something, I love to help.	2	1	0
I am always reading to understand new things.	2	1	0
Solving crossword puzzles and answering questions is fun.	2	1	0
ADD IT UP	<input type="text"/>		

	Usually	Sometimes	Not Very Often
12			
Learning other languages comes easy for me.	2	1	0
I can speak multiple languages.	2	1	0
People understand me when I speak in their language.	2	1	0
I want to learn to speak other languages.	2	1	0
ADD IT UP	<input type="text"/>		

	Usually	Sometimes	Not Very Often
13			
I like to talk in front of groups and make my talk interesting.	2	1	0
I enjoy coming up with new ways to share the good news of Jesus.	2	1	0
I like to do artwork that gets people excited about God.	2	1	0
I create websites, emails or write notes that are a witness for Jesus.	2	1	0
ADD IT UP	<input type="text"/>		

	Usually	Sometimes	Not Very Often
14			
When people tell me their problems, I love to pray for God to help them.	2	1	0
I enjoy praying for others every day.	2	1	0
Jesus often gives me opportunities to pray with others.	2	1	0
When I pray for others, I see God working.	2	1	0
ADD IT UP	<input type="text"/>		

	Usually	Sometimes	Not Very Often
15			
I love sharing God's love through music.	2	1	0
When I sing or play an instrument, others say God blesses them.	2	1	0
Learning new music comes easily for me.	2	1	0
I am able to tell when someone is singing off key.	2	1	0
ADD IT UP	<input type="text"/>		

In box "1" below, (1) *Evangelist*, put an X over the number that is equal to your total from box "1" on page 1. Go to box "2" and do the same. Continue until you have completed all 15 boxes. Go back and use a marker to fill-in solid all the numbers to the left of your X. This will form a graph. The highest score shows your strongest gift.

Evangelist = Eagerly tells people about Jesus, encouraging them to follow Him.

1		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Prophet = Helps others know what God wants them to do.

2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Teacher = Able to help others understand and learn new things.

3		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Encourager = Helps people feel good about themselves and what they are doing.

4		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Shepherd = Looks after the spiritual needs of others.

5		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Care Giver = Gives care to people who are sick or in need.

6		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Server = Does whatever is needed to help others do things.

7		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Giver = Happily shares their time, money and things

8		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Leader = Leads others to accomplish their goals.

9		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Craftsman = Makes things in a skillful or creative way.

10		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
----	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Knowledge = Able to learn easily and share information with others

11		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
----	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Linguist = Has ability to speak well in more than one language.

12		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
----	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Creative Communicator = Creatively shares using many forms of art or technologies.

13		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
----	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Prayer Partner = Quick and faithful in praying for others.

14		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
----	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Musician = Plays an instrument or sings for others.

15		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
----	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 20

For Kids

Discover Your Special Design

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses)

Say: Last week we learned that the Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts, and that Jesus wants us to use our gifts. Find someone who is not in your family to share with. Talk about your top two spiritual gifts and how you think Jesus might want you to use them.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that their spiritual gifts are to be used to help others
- **Feel** eager to put their spiritual gifts to work for Jesus
- **Respond** by choosing a service project to develop their spiritual gifts



*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Distribute one copy of the “Pick a Project” handout to each family group. Instruct them to each select the one or two projects they would most enjoy doing. Tell them where to get supplies and give them a time limit of 7 minutes to complete their projects. Tell them to begin; stop after 7 minutes.

Debrief

Say: Which project did you enjoy most? (Acknowledge responses.) How did you feel doing the things in this activity? (Acknowledge responses.) Do you think these were easy to do? Why or why not? (Acknowledge responses.) Do you think you could continue serving others this week like you did just now?

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.

You need

- Photocopies of “Pick a Project”
- Paper/envelopes
- Art supplies
- Food to give away (apples or cookies)
- Small plastic storage bags if needed

Ahead

Make photocopies of the “Pick a Project” handout, one for each family group.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus helps us use our gifts to serve others.

Activity

Say: We will go around the circle and have each of you report on your Spiritual Gifts Inventory. When it is your turn tell us the top two gifts the inventory revealed.

Go around the circle and have each participant report.

Ask: Were any of you surprised at your spiritual gifts? (Acknowledge responses.)

Say: I find this really exciting. I see so many possibilities in each of you. Remember that last week we said the inventory was just a beginning in finding out what spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit may have given you. An important part of knowing for sure comes when you use your spiritual gifts. In our lesson today we are going to look at how you can put your spiritual gifts to work for Jesus.

Bible Discovery

Write on the board:

Instructions:

- Read your Bible passage and answer the questions.
- Identify the spiritual gift(s) used to serve others (refer to your inventory for list)
- Report to the group – summarize Bible story; select one or two verses to read; identify the spiritual gift used

Say: You will have 6-7 minutes to complete your assignment.

Allow 7 minutes then call time. After each family group reports, write on the board the information listed with their number.

Write on the board: Gifted to serve

Family Group # 1. **Read 1 Samuel 3:1-18.** What spiritual gifts do you think Samuel had? How did the boy Samuel use his spiritual gifts? Do you think it was difficult for Samuel to tell Eli bad news?

You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils

Ahead

Make a photocopy of the Bible Discovery texts and questions listed as Family Group numbers, then cut them apart for distribution to the family groups. Do not include the information listed with each assignment under "Write on the board."

Write on the board: Samuel — communication / service

Family Group # 2. **Read Mark 12:41-44.** What spiritual gift do you think this woman had? Do you think it took courage for her to give her meager amount in front of others giving so much more? Why did Jesus praise her gift?

Write on the board: The poor woman — giving

Family Group # 3. **Read Genesis 41:46-56.** What spiritual gift did Joseph have? What might have made it difficult for Joseph to use his gifts in Egypt? What were the results of Joseph using his spiritual gifts?

Write on the board: Joseph — administration / leadership

Family Group # 4. **Read Exodus 31:1-11.** What spiritual gift did Bezalel have? Why was his gift essential to God's people at this time?

Write on the board: Bezalel — craftsmanship

Family Group # 5. **Read Acts 4:36 and Acts 15:36-40.** How do we know that Barnabas was well named? What spiritual gift did Barnabas have? How did Barnabas use his gift to help Mark?

Write on the board: Barnabas — encouragement

Family Group # 6. **Read 1 Kings 18:30-39.** What spiritual gift did Elijah have? What challenges did Elijah face as he used his gift at this time? What were the results of Elijah using his spiritual gift?

Write on the board: Elijah — faith

Group # 7. **Read 2 Kings 5:1-6, 14, 15.** What spiritual gift did this little girl have? What challenges did she face in using her spiritual gift? What were the results of using her spiritual gift?

Write on the board: Naaman's Hebrew maid — care giving

Family Group # 8. **Read Judges 4:1-10.** What spiritual gifts did Deborah have? How did she use her spiritual gifts? Who was helped as a result of her service?

Write on the board: Deborah — prophecy / leadership

Say: God chooses ordinary people and gives them spiritual gifts to serve others. Sometimes God needs ordinary people to do big things, such as when Joseph saved thousands of lives during the time of famine. But most of the time God needs ordinary people to do little things, like when Barnabas spoke a word of encouragement to a young man who was discouraged.

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "Tell me about the different people who were gifted to serve others."
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly an experience you have had serving someone else by using your spiritual gifts.

Say: When we use the spiritual gifts God gives us we have success in serving others and it brings us satisfaction and joy. Having success and feeling joy are two ways you can determine if the gifts you think you have are really your spiritual gifts.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



My World (5-8 Minutes)

Distribute the copies of the following handouts to the family groups:

- *What is God Calling Me to Do?*
- *Solving the Puzzle*
- *When I Put All the Puzzle Pieces Together.*

While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

You need

- One *What is God Calling Me to Do?* handout for each participant
- One *Solving the Puzzle* handout for each participant
- One *When I Put All the Puzzle Pieces Together* handout for each participant



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus helps us use our gifts to serve others.**

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Say: This week you will finish “My World” at home and select a project to use your spiritual gifts to help others.

Grace Point — Say: Next week you will be invited to share what you have chosen as your service projects.

Close with a prayer of thanks for:

- thanking God for the amazing gifts He has given each of the participants
- asking Him to guide each one as they choose a service project to use their gifts to serve others

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. **Say** the *Footprint* together: **Jesus helps us use our gifts to serve others.**
2. Parents/mentors: **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

Gifted to Serve God and Others

1. Samuel used his spiritual gifts of communication and service 1 Samuel 3:1-18
2. The widow woman used her spiritual gift of giving Mark 12:41-44
3. Joseph used his spiritual gift of administration Genesis 41:46-48
4. Bezalel used his spiritual gift of craftsmanship Exodus 31:1-5
5. Barnabas used his spiritual gift of encouragement Acts 4:36;15:36-40
6. Elijah used his spiritual gift of evangelism 1 Kings 18:30-39
7. Naaman’s Hebrew maid used her spiritual gift of faith 2 Kings 5:1-6, 14, 15
8. Deborah used her spiritual gifts of prophecy and leadership Judges 4:1-10

3. **THE CHOICE – Ask:** Would you like to use your spiritual gifts to serve others? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week
5. **Pray** together asking the Holy Spirit to guide you as you discover ways to use your spiritual gifts to serve others.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. Give your child a copy of the *What is God Calling Me to Do?* handout. Have him/her put a check mark beside each choice in number 1 that interests him/her. When your child is finished, tell him/her to look over those checked and narrow the choices down to the top three items of highest interest. Discuss the top three choices. Repeat this procedure for number 2.
2. Give your child a copy of the Solving the Puzzle handout. Tell your child to follow these instructions (allow time after each one for your child to write responses):
 - o Write your top two spiritual gifts in the first box
 - o In box number 2 write your top three items from number 1 on the *What is God Calling Me to Do?* handout
 - o In box number 3 write your top three items from number 2 on the *What is God Calling Me to Do?* handout.

Home Assignment:

1. For box number 4 on *Solving the Puzzle* handout, visit another family that knows your children well and ask them to tell each of you what gifts and abilities they see in you. Write these in the last box on this handout.
2. Spend some time in prayer together for God's guidance as you complete this assignment. Use the *When I Put All the Puzzle Pieces Together* handout to create a plan for a service project. This can be an individual project (one for each member of the family) or this can be a family group project. Include:
 - a description of whom you plan to help
 - what you plan to do
 - who you need to help you do it
 - what you need to complete it
 - when you will do it

Try to match up your project with your spiritual gifts. Set a date and begin doing what you need to do to make this project happen.

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share what you have chosen as your service projects.

Next Week you will be asked to share what you have chosen as projects. You will also be asked to share the name of a person in your circle of influence who needs to know Jesus. How could hope in Jesus help that person?

Discover Your Special Design

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 20

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-4

Activity: Have each person in your family make a list of five things that have attracted their attention in the last week. Think about TV ads, things you have seen while riding in the car, something you may have heard on the news, something interesting you may have learned at school, etc.

For Discussion: Are your lists the same or different? Why do different people find different things attractive? How do you think God takes into account personal differences when He wants to attract your attention? Do you think there's anything that God is using to attract your attention right now?

Prayer Point: Thank God for taking our individual differences into account when He plans missions for us. Ask Him to make you sensitive to the ways He may be trying to get your attention.

Choice Two

Scripture: Exodus 2:11-15; Exodus 3:7-9

Activity: Compile a list of needs in your church family, in your school or in the community around you. Look through your local paper, call your pastor or teacher or another knowledgeable person in your church or ask friends and relatives to help you.

For Discussion: Do you think there was any other person who cared more about the plight of the Israelites than Moses? Why or why not? Do you think God had a hard time convincing Moses of the need? Does God have a hard time convincing you of the needs of others around you? Why or why not? Do you think God is asking you to do anything about any of these needs?

Prayer Point: Ask God to make you sensitive to the needs of those around you, and to help you never become so insensitive that you find it easy to turn your back on the needs He puts before you. Ask Him to show you the need or needs that He has in mind for a mission for you.

Choice Three

Scripture: Exodus 3:11-22

Activity: Ask your parents or another adult to write down three reasons or excuses you give when they ask you to do something and you don't do it.

For Discussion: How do these compare with the excuses Moses gave God? Do you think Moses' excuses were good ones or not? Could you come up with any excuses that were better than Moses'? How did God respond to Moses' excuses? How do you think God would respond to any excuses you might offer when He wants to send you on a mission?

Prayer Point: Ask God to make you willing to go on whatever mission He chooses for you. Confess to Him that your excuses come because you don't completely trust Him. Ask Him to help you trust Him completely.

Choice Four

Scripture: Exodus 4:1-9

Activity: Review the Spiritual Gifts Inventory you completed last week. Ask your family to help you identify any other spiritual gifts you may have been given that didn't appear in your booklet. What are your top three or four gifts?

For Discussion: How are your spiritual gifts like the staff Moses held in his hand? Is there anything else you may be holding in your hand that God can use to help accomplish His mission for you? What do you think God might want to do with the things you are holding in your hand?

Prayer Point: Ask God to make you aware of the things you are already holding in your hand. Ask God to make you willing to use those things to accomplish His mission for you.

Choice Five

Scripture: Exodus 4:13-17

Activity: Review your worksheet *What Is God Calling Me to Do?* Whom can you visit or talk to who helps the kind of people you like to help or who works on the issues that concern you the most?

For Discussion: Why do you think God sent Aaron to Moses? Whom do you think God may be sending to you as your Aaron? Why? Do you know what your mission from God is? If so, what are you going to do about it?

Prayer Point: Thank God for giving us helpers on our missions. Ask God to show you if there is someone He wants you to work with on your mission. Pray for that person, whether or not you know who it is. Pray for God's guidance and presence and power in that person's life and in yours.

What is God Calling Me to Do?

1. The people I would help most are: (put a check mark beside each one you would be interested in helping. Try to mark no more than 7)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parents / Grandparents | <input type="checkbox"/> Brother / Sister | <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer patients |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Prisoners | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospital patients |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Babies (birth – 2) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lonely | <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-school kids (ages 3-) | <input type="checkbox"/> Orphans | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary kids | <input type="checkbox"/> Foster care kids | <input type="checkbox"/> Grieving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High school kids | <input type="checkbox"/> Handicapped | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College kids | <input type="checkbox"/> Sick / Dying | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed | <input type="checkbox"/> Military |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastors | <input type="checkbox"/> Government Leaders | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

2. The issues or causes I feel strongly about are: (put a check mark beside each one that you feel strongly about. Try to mark no more than 7)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping people know Jesus | <input type="checkbox"/> Family relationships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discipling kids to Jesus | <input type="checkbox"/> Kids from divorced homes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hunger | <input type="checkbox"/> Kids who can't read |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kids home alone after school | <input type="checkbox"/> Kids who struggle in school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment (pollution/endangered animals) | <input type="checkbox"/> Missing children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Violence (Internet, TV, electronic games) | <input type="checkbox"/> Abortion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy food |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reading to people who can't see | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor a poor child
(food, clothing, education) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping homeless people | <input type="checkbox"/> Patriotism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help poor go to Christian school / camp | <input type="checkbox"/> Friends who don't come to
church anymore |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abused kids | <input type="checkbox"/> Kids without parents |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drug and alcohol abuse | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People who can't afford medical care | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

3. Of the issues I selected, I think the area where I could make the greatest difference would be:

_____.

Pick a Project

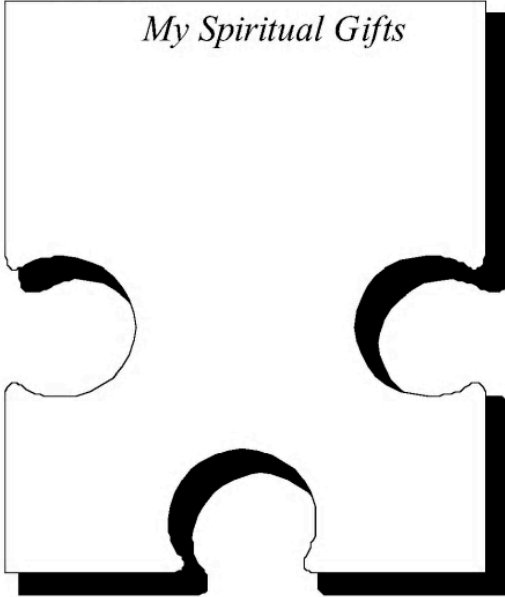
1. Think of someone you know in the church or in your neighborhood who is sick or lonely or discouraged. Call that person on your phone right now and give him/ her a cheery message. Consider having several people help you by singing together over the phone then praying for the person.
2. Think of someone in your *Footprints* small group whom you appreciate. Make that person a card telling what you appreciate about him/her. Mail or deliver it.
3. Think of a song you could sing to honor someone in your *Footprints* small group. Practice it once alone or with others who can sing with you then surround the person and say, "This song is in honor of you." Sing it with enthusiasm.
4. Find a Bible promise you think would be special for someone in your *Footprints* small group. Write it out on construction paper, decorate it then present it to him/her. Option 2: Take your open Bible with you and go read the promise to the person.
5. Choose someone to cheer up. Select a food item and write a short note then deliver them to that person.
6. Think of someone in your *Footprints* small group. Using the letters of his/her first name, think of positive characteristics that person demonstrates that begins with each letter. Use fancy paper and markers to make it look nice. Deliver your creation to that person.
7. Share with one other person your story of what Jesus has done for you.



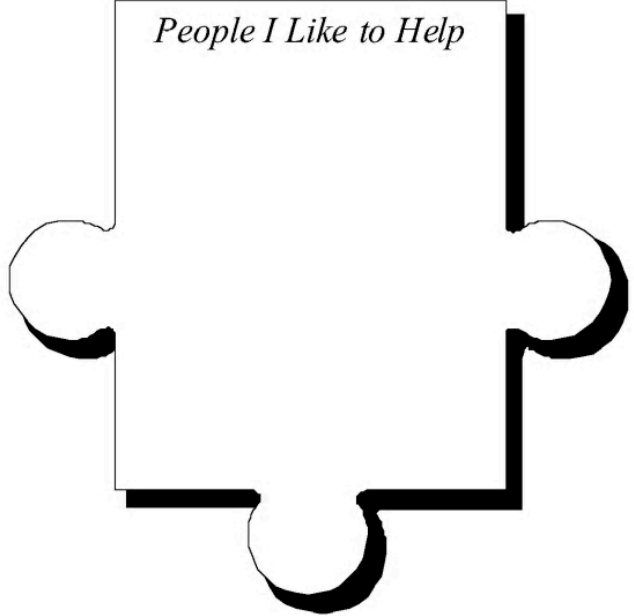
My World
Solving the Puzzle

Jesus helps us use our talents to serve others.

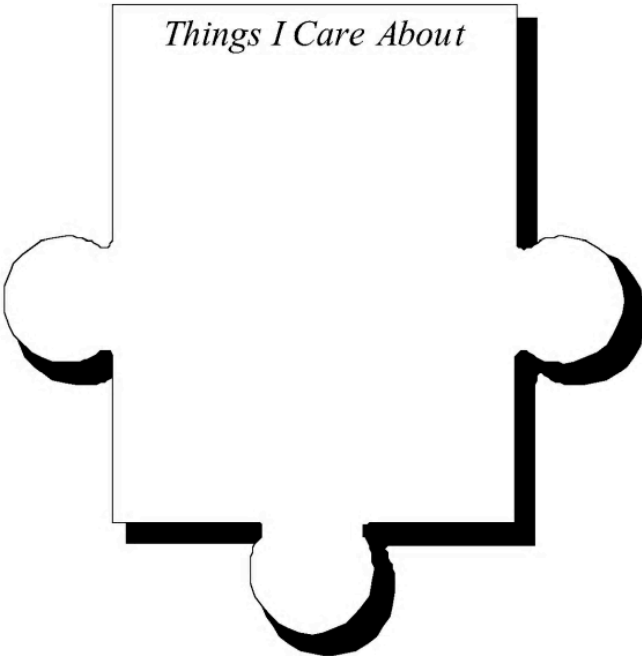
My Spiritual Gifts



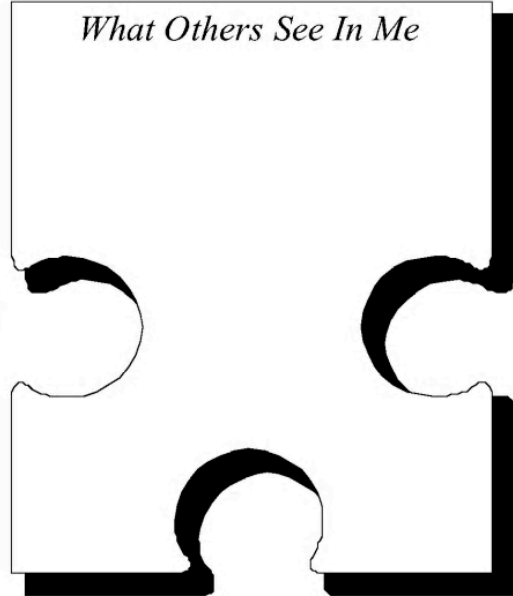
People I Like to Help



Things I Care About



What Others See In Me





My World

When I Put All the Puzzle Pieces Together

I Believe God Wants Me To...

A large graphic of a puzzle piece with a white center and a grey border. The center is a white rectangle with horizontal lines for writing. The puzzle piece is surrounded by other puzzle pieces, some of which are missing, creating a frame around the writing area.

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 21

For Kids

Make Friends for Jesus

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

Jesus wants
us to bring
our friends
to Him



Say: Last week we learned that Jesus wants us to use our spiritual gifts to serve others. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell about the service project you have chosen. Tell who you plan to help and what you plan to do.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** how Jesus made friends
- **Feel** inspired to make friends for Jesus
- **Respond** by starting to make friends for Jesus

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

You need

- 2 paper bags
- 2 unusual objects that are difficult to identify by touch alone

Divide the class into two groups and give each group one bag. Instruct each group to stand in a circle and with eyes closed silently pass the bag from person to person. **Say:** When you receive the bag, reach inside and feel the object. Try to figure out what it is. Do not talk.

When the bags have completed their circles, instruct the participants to pair up with someone from the other group. Instruct them to take turns sharing what they felt in their bags and describing what it might be useful for.

Take the objects out of the bags for all to see.

Debrief

Ask: How well did you describe your object? (Acknowledge responses.) How does it feel to tell someone else about something you are not familiar with? (Acknowledge responses.) How does something become familiar? (When you can see it, touch it, use it.)

Instruct the participants to think of an object they are very familiar with. Invite them to describe this object to their partners. Allow 30 seconds for each person. Call time.

Ask: How did it feel to talk about something you are familiar with? (Acknowledge responses.)

Say: The things we spend time with and think about the most are the things that are most familiar to us. These are the things we are most comfortable talking about with others. When we spend more time with Jesus, it becomes easier to talk to others about Him.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus wants us to bring our friends to Him.

Activity

Based on Luke 19:1-8; John 17:20, 21

Place the step ladder off to one side and behind the plant so it will look like Zacchaeus is climbing the tree.

Select volunteers to be Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Zacchaeus and Jesus.

Instruct the actors to freeze their action as Narrator 1 speaks then resume action when Narrator 2 speaks. Place Narrators 1 and 2 at opposite sides of the front of the room. Give Zacchaeus a handful of coins. Direct the acting and encourage enthusiasm.

Narrator 1 Jesus knew a lot about friendship. Let's see what we can learn from His example.

Narrator 2 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through this city.

Narrator 1 Let's notice something here. Who came to whom? Jesus came to Jericho looking for Zacchaeus. We make friends by looking for others where they are.

Narrator 2 A man there by the name of Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector; he was wealthy.

Zacchaeus [Enters and stands pouring a handful of coins back and forth from hand to hand.]

Narrator 1 Here's the story on tax collectors. They were Jews, but they collected taxes for the Romans. The Jews hated the Romans and tax collectors. Tax collectors made people pay too much. If the tax was \$1.00 the tax collector could charge \$2.00 and keep the difference for himself. There was nothing that anyone could do about this. So Zacchaeus was not a popular guy. He had hardly any friends.

You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- 3 copies of the script
- Props: coins, step ladder, real or artificial plant to hide the step ladder, red scarf for Jesus

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families as they arrive. Be sure to include the number reference.

- Narrator 2** Jesus entered Jericho and walked down the street.
- Jesus** [Enters followed by a crowd at the side opposite the step ladder and plant.]
- Narrator 2** Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus.
- Zacchaeus** [Stands on tip toes trying to see over the crowd.]
- Narrator 2** But he was a short man and couldn't see because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a tree to see Jesus. He put his hand above his brow and peered out between the branches.
- Zacchaeus** [Climbs step ladder; peers out between branches.]
- Narrator 2** Jesus and the crowd were heading toward the tree. When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."
- Jesus** [Looks up at Zacchaeus.]
- Narrator 1** Wow! Did you catch that? Jesus knew Zacchaeus needed a friend. And so He spoke first and made the first attempt at friendship.
- Narrator 2** So Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed Jesus gladly. He shook His hand and pointed out the direction of his home. They immediately headed that way. All the people saw this and muttered in astonishment, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner!"
- Zacchaeus** [Climbs down from the ladder; shakes Jesus' hand; points.]
- Narrator 1** Eating with someone is considered an act of friendship and acceptance. No other Jew in all of Jericho would eat with Zacchaeus. Yet Jesus accepted him and even invited Himself to Zacchaeus' house. Jesus wanted Zacchaeus for a friend, and He wanted to set an example for others to follow. Jesus' love and acceptance made Zacchaeus feel six feet tall. He just wanted to love Jesus back. His face became one big smile as he turned to Jesus.
- Narrator 2** Zacchaeus said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

Bible Discovery

Write on the board: How Jesus Made Friends.

Say: The story of Zacchaeus gives us some important pointers on how to make friends for Jesus.

1 Read Luke 19:1. Did Zacchaeus come to the city where Jesus lived, or did Jesus come to the city where Zacchaeus lived? (Jesus came to Zacchaeus.)

Say: We need to go up to visitors at church and be the first one to speak. We need to go and make friends with our neighbors.

Write on the board: Jesus went where people were

2 Read Luke 19:5. In the story of Zacchaeus, who made the first move to start a friendship? (Jesus.)

Write on the board: Jesus looked for ways to begin the friendship

3 Read Luke 19:5 again. What needs did Zacchaeus have that Jesus met? (Need for a friend; need for acceptance.)

Write on the board: Jesus met their needs

4 Read Luke 19:5-7 and John 3:17. What did Jesus NOT do when He met Zacchaeus? (He did not reveal his sins or condemn him.)

Say: Jesus did not embarrass Zacchaeus by telling others what Zacchaeus had done wrong. Zacchaeus was well aware of his own sins and confessed them when he experienced Jesus' love and acceptance.

Write on the board: Jesus did not point out faults but showed love

5 Read John 17:20, 21. What did Jesus do for His friends? (He prayed for them.)

Write on the board: Jesus prayed for His friends

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "How did Jesus make friends?"
3. After each answer follow up by asking, "What can we do to make friends for Jesus?"
4. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to bring our friends to Him.**

Leader: Share briefly an experience you have had in sharing Jesus with one of your friends.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to bring our friends to Him.**

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Say: Making friends is the first step in bringing people to Jesus. You never know who God has put into your life for the purpose of helping that friend know Him.

Ask: Did you all think of a person who might not know Jesus as his/her friend? Did you think of something you can do to be a friend to this person?

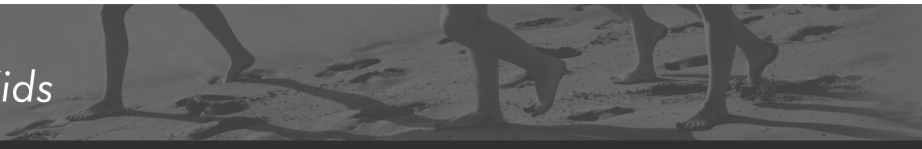
Grace Point — Say: Next week I will ask you to share any first step you have taken to help this person know Jesus as his/her friend.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for His friendship
- asking Him to help us bring our friends to Him

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

FOOTPRINTS *For Kids*



My Choice

1. **Say** the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants us to bring our friends to Him.**
2. Parents/mentors **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

Forming Friendships that Last Forever...

Jesus was a master at making friends. He wants His followers to continue to make friends for Him. By following His example we can learn how to make friends for Him.

1. Jesus went to people instead of waiting for them to come to Him..... Luke 19:1
2. Jesus looked for ways to begin a friendship Luke 19:5
3. Jesus met their needs Luke 19:5
4. Jesus did not point out faults but showed them love..... Luke 19:5-7; John 3:17
5. Jesus prayed for His friends John 17:2, 21

3. Parents/mentors **Share** the name of a person in your circle of influence who needs to know Jesus. How could hope in Jesus help that person?
4. **THE CHOICE – Ask:** Would you like to share Jesus with your friends? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** together as a family. Tell Jesus you want to bring your friends to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you know which people you need to help.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

Work with your child to complete the following:

1. Make a “Friends for Jesus” list. Write the names of people you know who might not know Jesus as their friend.

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

2. Select one person from your list and put a check beside his/her name.

3. Complete this outline:

GO	How will you get to where this person is? How will you start getting to know this person? What are some things you might have in common?
LOOK	How might you begin a friendship?
MEET	What needs does this person have and how will you meet them?
LOVE	What things will you look for in this person that you can like? How will you keep showing love to this person even if you don't think he/she will accept Jesus?
PRAY	Pray right now for this person. Continue to pray that you will be the kind of friend to this person that Jesus would be.

Grace Point — Next week you will be asked to share any first step you have taken to help this person know Jesus as his/her friend.

Next week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share your experience of leading another person to receive Jesus as his/her Savior or your experience of being led by someone else to accept Jesus as your Savior.

Make Friends for Jesus

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 21

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:1

Activity: Draw a picture of you and your best friend.

For Discussion: The Bible says Jonathan loved David as much as he loved himself. Do you love your best friend that much? How do you know how much you love someone? How can you show your best friend how much you love him/her?

Prayer Point: Thank God for your spiritual friends. Ask God to help you keep Him at the center of your friendships.

Choice Two

Scripture: 1 Samuel 18:4

Activity: Gather your family. Give each person a piece of paper and a pencil. Have each person write down what they think are the others' most prized possession(s). Compare notes and see who got the most correct answers.

For Discussion: Have you ever given a friend a present you wanted for yourself? How did that feel? Have you ever given your most prized possession to someone else? What do you think prompted Jonathan to give his most valuable possessions to David?

Prayer Point: Ask God to make you as generous with your friends as Jonathan was with David, and as He is with us.

Choice Three

Scripture: 1 Samuel 19:1-7

Activity: Draw or create a “danger” sign using construction paper, felt, craft foam, or any items you have at home. On the back, write down the dangerous things you come up with in the discussion section.

For Discussion: Was Jonathan concerned about the consequences of warning David? How do you know? What dangers can you think of that you might need to warn a friend about? Have you ever tried to mend a relationship problem like Jonathan did? What happened?

Prayer Point: Ask God to make you a fearless friend who is more concerned with doing the right thing than with the consequences.

Choice Four

Scripture: 1 Samuel 20, especially verses 41 and 42

Activity: Look at the list of names you came up with previously or think of another friend whose well-being you can put above your own. Ask your parents or another adult for help thinking of a way you can show that person you are concerned about him/ her, and then do it.

For Discussion: How did Jonathan show that he was more concerned with David’s well-being than his own? Ask several adults if they have ever had a friend who was more concerned about the welfare of others than their own. What were the results? Are you more concerned about your friends than yourself?

Prayer Point: Ask Jesus to make you a friend like Jonathan, who was more concerned about his friend than himself.

Choice Five

Scripture: 1 Samuel 23:15-18

Activity: Look at the names on your list again. Whom do you think might need encouraging? Give that person a call or find another way to encourage him/ her.

For Discussion: Have you ever helped a friend find strength in the Lord? Who? How? Has anyone ever helped you find strength in the Lord? Who? How? What did that do to your friendship, or what do you think it would do to your friendship?

Prayer Point: Ask God to make you the kind of friend who helps others find strength in Him.

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 22

For Kids

Lead Your Friends to Choose Jesus

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)



Say: Last week we learned that Jesus wants us to bring our friends to Him. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell about any first step you have taken to help one of your friends know Jesus as a friend.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions.) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** how to invite a friend to accept Jesus as Savior
- **Feel** equipped to lead their friends to Jesus
- **Respond** by practicing how to lead a friend to Jesus

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Instruct the participants to team up in pairs for this activity. One partner is to put on the blindfold. The other partner is to hide the treat somewhere in the room. This team member will then give instructions to lead his partner to the treat. Switch roles and repeat the activity so each person finds a surprise treat.

Debrief

Ask: Did you enjoy leading another person to a special treat? (Acknowledge responses.) What did you need to do to help your partner locate the gift? (Know where to direct him/her, give clear directions, give encouragement, be patient.) How is this activity similar to sharing the good news of Jesus with someone who doesn't know Him? (Takes planning, requires patience, you need to want that person to experience the joy of Jesus.)

Say: In our lesson today we are going to look at how you can lead your friends to the best gift anyone can give another person — Jesus.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.

You need

- A treat for each person such as a cookie or piece of fruit
- Paper bags
- Blindfolds

Ahead

Place the treats in individual paper bags.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus wants our friends to be in heaven.

Bible Discovery

Say: Earlier in our small group journey together we discovered that we can know for sure that Jesus has saved us. In this lesson we are going to review the Scripture texts from Lesson 3 so we can be ready to share Jesus with our friends.

Write on the board: Leading your friends to choose Jesus

Activity

Use the *Steps to Salvation* card to demonstrate how to lead another person to accept Jesus as Savior. Ask for a volunteer who will be the leader as you take the role of someone being led to accept Jesus. Distribute the *Steps to Salvation* cards to the participants so they can follow along as you demonstrate this. Instruct your volunteer to follow the steps, telling him/her that you will stop after each step to write on the marker board.

The content from the *Steps to Salvation* card has been printed below with leader information printed in **bold**. After each step, make the point(s) as printed in bold then ask a volunteer to write the point on the marker board as noted under “**Volunteer write on the board.**” Invite comments and questions before instructing your volunteer helper to go to the next step.

You Can Be Sure About Your Salvation

Ask: If Jesus came back tonight, would you go to heaven? Why?

Say: Let's look at what the Bible has to say about you, heaven and salvation.

Read: Romans 5:8

Ask: Do you know that God loves you just the way you are?

STEP #1 **Be sure God loves you**

You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- Photocopies of *Steps to Salvation* cards - 1 per person

Ahead

Prepare photocopies of the *Steps to Salvation* cards. Use card stock if available.

Leader say: Jesus died for us before we ever knew about Him or cared about Him.

Volunteer write on the board: Step # 1 — Be sure God loves you

Read: Romans 3:23 - Everyone is a sinner.
Romans 6:23(1st part) - Sinners have earned death.

Ask: What problem does each person have?

STEP #2 Tell Jesus you need Him

Leader say: Each and every person has a problem because every person has sinned and deserves death. The Bible calls this death the “second” death. It is eternal death which is the opposite of eternal life. We all need Jesus to save us from this sin problem.

Volunteer write on the board: Step # 2 — Realize you need a Savior

Read: I John 1:9

Say: When you confess your sins, Jesus completely forgives you.

STEP #3 Confess your sins to Jesus

Leader say: When we confess our sins we accept our responsibility for choosing to sin. It is saying “I’m sorry I did this.”

Volunteer write on the board: Step # 3 — Confess your sins

Read: Romans 6:23(2nd part) - God offers you Jesus’ gift of eternal life.

Ask: Do you want Jesus’ free gift of eternal life?

Read: John 3:16

Ask: Do you believe Jesus died for you?

STEP #4 Believe that Jesus is your Savior

Leader say: God loves you so much that He gave Jesus to die in your place. Jesus loves you so much He was willing to die to pay the penalty for the sins that you have done. The moment you believe in Jesus as your personal Savior from sin, you have eternal life. It is God’s free gift to you.

Volunteer write on the board: Step # 4 — Believe in Jesus

Read: Revelation 3:20

STEP #5 Invite Jesus into your heart

Share your testimony: Why are you happy that you invited Jesus into your heart?

Ask: Would you like to ask Jesus into your heart right now?

Would you like to ask Him yourself as we pray, or would you like to repeat a special prayer after me?

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for loving me before I loved you. I accept your free gift of salvation. I believe that you died for me. Forgive me of my sins. Completely clean out my whole heart. Come into my heart and stay there forever.

Thank you Jesus! Amen

Leader say: Once we believe in Jesus as our Savior, once we realize that He can take care of our sin problem and give us eternal life, we open the door of our heart to Jesus. Jesus doesn't force Himself upon us. We can choose to let Him be our Savior or we can choose to reject Him. He waits for our invitation to come in.

Volunteer write on the board: Step # 5 — Invite Jesus into your heart

Read: I John 5:13 - When you believe in Jesus you can KNOW NOW that you will be in heaven!

Ask: Has Jesus helped you be sure that you will be in heaven?

Leader say: Jesus wants us to know for sure that Jesus has saved us and that we have eternal life.

Volunteer write on the board: Know for sure that Jesus has saved you

Thank the volunteer for his/her help. Ask the participants if they have any questions. Encourage them to keep the *Steps to Salvation* cards in their Bibles or copy the information on a fly leaf of their Bibles

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What are the five steps to salvation?"
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly your personal experience of leading another person to receive Jesus as his/her Savior, if you have done this. If not, share your experience of accepting Jesus as your personal Savior. What impact has this Bible truth had on your relationship to Jesus?

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



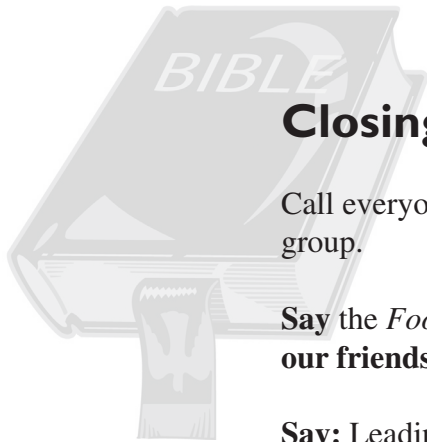
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

You need

- One *My World* for each family
- Pens/pencils

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants our friends to be in heaven.**

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each participant

Say: Leading a friend to Jesus is the best gift you could ever give anyone. God is eager to use each of you to lead others to Him!

Ask: Did you each think of one someone who might let you practice using the “*Steps to Salvation*” card?

Leader Note: This week you need one copy of *Mentoring Moments* for each participant as noted in the *You need* box above.

Say: Parents and mentors, the *Mentoring Moments* this week is a homework assignment to help with this lesson. Please do the assignment yourself as your child does it so you also will be prepared to lead a friend to Jesus.

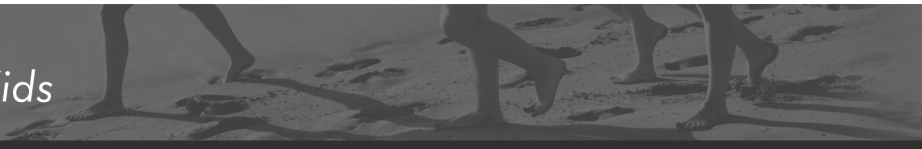
Grace Point — Say: Next week I will ask you to share your experience in practicing how to lead your friends to accept Jesus and have the assurance of salvation.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus for giving us an easy plan we can use to help others accept Him
- asking the Holy Spirit to lead each person to a friend who needs to choose Jesus as Savior

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

FOOTPRINTS *For Kids*



My Choice

1. **Say** the *Footprint* together: **Jesus wants our friends to be in heaven.**
2. Parents/mentors: Use the *Steps to Salvation* card to **Review** with your child the process used to lead another person to accept Jesus, asking the following questions: “Do you understand why this step is important?” and “Do you have any questions about how to do this?” Clarify any points as needed.

Steps to Salvation:

Step # 1 – Be sure God loves you.....	Romans 5:8
Step # 2 – Tell Jesus you need Him	Romans 3:23 and 6:23
Step # 3 – Confess your sins	1John 1:9
Step # 4 -- Believe in Jesus	Romans 6:23; John 3:16
Step # 5 – Invite Jesus into your heart.....	Revelation 3:20
Know for sure	1 John 5:13

3. Parents/mentors **Share** your experience of leading another person to receive Jesus as his/her Savior or your experience of being led by someone else to accept Jesus as your Savior. When did you realize that Jesus died just for you? How did you feel knowing that Jesus loved you enough to pay the death penalty for you? What difference has this made in your life?
4. **THE CHOICE – Ask:** Will you choose to lead a friend to accept Jesus as Savior when the Holy Spirit gives you that opportunity? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** as a family thanking Jesus for giving you the information you need to lead others to Him. Ask Him to help you know who and how and when.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Ask:** How do you feel about the idea of leading your friends to accept Jesus as Savior? Is this exciting or scary? Why? Do you think the *Steps to Salvation* card would be easy to use?
2. **Ask:** Do you have any friends in the neighborhood or at school who you think may not have accepted Jesus as their Savior or may not have the assurance of salvation? How does this make you feel?
3. **Brainstorm** for names of people you know who need to accept Jesus as their personal Savior or who need the assurance of salvation

People You Know Who Need Jesus

Ideas for a first step to draw him/her to want Jesus

1.	
2.	
3.	

4. Select one name and circle it. **Discuss:** What can you do as a first step to draw him/her to Jesus? Make a commitment to be ready to share Jesus with this friend when the Holy Spirit impresses you.
5. **Ask:** Who do we know that would be willing to let us practice leading someone to Jesus with him/her? Make an appointment this week with this person and practice using the *Steps to Salvation* card. Parents/mentors, team up with your child to help him/her practice with a relative or family friend.
6. **Pray** together and ask the Holy Spirit to help you be ready to share Jesus when He impresses you.
7. Use *Mentoring Moments* at home this week to add your story to Step 5 in the *Steps to Salvation* card.

Grace Point — Next week you will be asked to share about your “practice” session with someone else.

Next week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share an experience you have had in studying the Bible with another person. The lesson will have a homework assignment that requires a Bible concordance and the creation of a Bible study.

Lead Your Friends to Choose Jesus

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 22

This week's *Mentoring Moments* is a continuation of *My World* for lesson 22 and needs to be completed before the next small group meeting.

Parents/mentors: To help your child with this activity do each number yourself. Be available to offer suggestions or answer questions. Be ready to share your own testimony with your child and also with the person you selected in *My World*.

One important thing we each can do to share Jesus with others is give our personal testimony of what Jesus has done for us. The following will help you add your own story to Step 5 in *Steps to Salvation*.

1. Think about a time when you invited Jesus to come into your heart. Describe that experience. For example: Were you invited by someone else to accept Jesus as your Savior? Were you at a camp or Pathfinders or church or school or by yourself?

2. What difference has it made to have Jesus as your Savior and Friend? For example:
 - Are you now no longer afraid of something?
 - Does Jesus help you when you need help?
 - Do you feel peace when bad stuff happens?
 - Are you nicer now to your brother or sister or school mates?
 - Another difference is _____.

3. Spend 2-3 minutes thinking about what you could say to someone else about your experience with Jesus. Use some of your ideas from numbers 1 and 2.

For example: Brandon is 10 years old. Here is his testimony.

Sometimes I'm really mean to my younger brother Kyle. He really annoys me so I pick on him. One time it was so bad that I made him cry. Something inside told me that I should stop it, but I knew I couldn't. I asked Jesus to come into my heart and make me more like Him. He did. I still pick on Kyle sometimes, but not like I used to. I know Jesus helps me be nice.

4. Practice saying your testimony out loud to one of your family members. When you're done, ask him/her to give you ideas to make your testimony more powerful.

5. Spend some time in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to be ready to share your testimony when He impresses you.

Steps to Salvation

Ask: If Jesus came back tonight, would you go to heaven? Why?

Say: Let's look at what the Bible has to say about you, heaven and salvation.

Read: Romans 5:8

Ask: Do you know that God loves you just the way you are?

STEP #1 Be sure God loves you

Read: Romans 3:23 - Everyone is a sinner.

Romans 6:23(1st part) - Sinners have earned death.

Ask: What problem does each person have?

STEP #2 Tell Jesus you need Him

Read: I John 1:9

Say: When you confess your sins, Jesus completely forgives you.

STEP #3 Confess your sins to Jesus

Read: Romans 6:23(2nd part) - God offers you Jesus' gift of eternal life.

Ask: Do you want Jesus' free gift of eternal life?

Read: John 3:16

Ask: Do you believe Jesus died for you?

STEP #4 Believe that Jesus is your Savior

Read: Revelation 3:20

Share your testimony: Why are you happy that you invited Jesus into your heart?

STEP #5 Invite Jesus into your heart

Ask: Would you like to ask Jesus into your heart right now?

Would you like to ask Him yourself as we pray, or would you like to repeat a special prayer after me?

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for loving me before I loved you. I accept your free gift of salvation. I believe that you died for me. Forgive me of my sins. Completely clean out my whole heart. Come into my heart and stay there forever. Thank you Jesus! Amen

Read: I John 5:13

Ask: What does this verse tell you that you can KNOW NOW?

Steps to Salvation

Ask: If Jesus came back tonight, would you go to heaven? Why?

Say: Let's look at what the Bible has to say about you, heaven and salvation.

Read: Romans 5:8

Ask: Do you know that God loves you just the way you are?

STEP #1 Be sure God loves you

Read: Romans 3:23 - Everyone is a sinner.

Romans 6:23(1st part) - Sinners have earned death.

Ask: What problem does each person have?

STEP #2 Tell Jesus you need Him

Read: I John 1:9

Say: When you confess your sins, Jesus completely forgives you.

STEP #3 Confess your sins to Jesus

Read: Romans 6:23(2nd part) - God offers you Jesus' gift of eternal life.

Ask: Do you want Jesus' free gift of eternal life?

Read: John 3:16

Ask: Do you believe Jesus died for you?

STEP #4 Believe that Jesus is your Savior

Read: Revelation 3:20

Share your testimony: Why are you happy that you invited Jesus into your heart?

STEP #5 Invite Jesus into your heart

Ask: Would you like to ask Jesus into your heart right now?

Would you like to ask Him yourself as we pray, or would you like to repeat a special prayer after me?

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for loving me before I loved you. I accept your free gift of salvation. I believe that you died for me. Forgive me of my sins. Completely clean out my whole heart. Come into my heart and stay there forever. Thank you Jesus! Amen

Read: I John 5:13

Ask: What does this verse tell you that you can KNOW NOW?

FOOTPRINTS

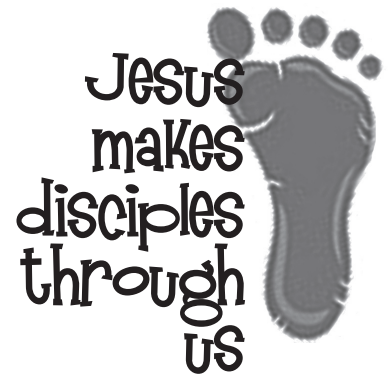
Leader's Guide for LESSON 23

For Kids

Study the Bible with Your Friends

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)



Say: Last week we learned that Jesus wants our friends to be in heaven. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell about practicing how to use the *Steps to Salvation* card to lead your friends to Jesus.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** how to share the Bible with a friend
- **Feel** ready to share Jesus through His Word
- **Respond** by studying the Bible with someone Jesus leads you to

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

You need

- Coins (several per person)
- Blindfolds (optional)
- Bucket or large container

Divide the participants into pairs keeping family groups together. **Say:** The object of this activity is to locate all the coins and place them in this bucket. Place the bucket in the center of the room and scatter the coins on the floor around it. Instruct the adults to place a blindfold on the child then give spoken instructions to lead him/her to a coin then to the bucket to drop it in. When all the coins have been found, repeat the activity reversing roles with the adults blindfolded and the children giving instructions.

Debrief

Ask: What did you need to do to find the coins? (Listen carefully to instructions, use hands to feel for them.) What did you need to do in order to lead someone to find a coin? (Give clear directions.) How did you know who to listen to with so many voices giving instructions at the same time? (Knew parents/mentor's voice.) In what ways is this activity similar to leading others to find the spiritual treasures in the Bible? (Need to help others by guiding them to the Bible – need to be clear in giving directions for Bible study.)

Say: We can lead others to the spiritual treasures in the Bible.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus makes disciples through us.

Activity

Say: Jesus left an example of how He shared the Scriptures with people. Let's read His example to learn from Him.

Ask four volunteers to read the script. Invite the others to follow along in their Bibles.

Based on Luke 24:13-34

Narrator 1 Now that same day two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus about seven miles from Jerusalem. The disciples were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they discussed these things with each other, Jesus Himself came up and walked along with them but they were kept from recognizing Him.

Narrator 2 Jesus asked the disciples, "What were you discussing together as you walked along?"

Narrator 1 The disciples stood still, their faces downcast.

Narrator 3 One of the disciples, named Cleopas, asked Jesus, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

Narrator 2 Jesus asked softly, "What things?"

Narrator 4 The disciples answered, "About Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and rulers handed Him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified Him. We disciples had hoped that Jesus was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place."

You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- 4 copies of Luke 24 reading
- 3 poster boards

Ahead

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families as they arrive. Be sure to include the number reference.

- Narrator 3** They continued, “In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn’t find His body. The women came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said Jesus was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but Jesus they did not see.”
- Narrator 2** Jesus sadly exclaimed, “How foolish you disciples are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not Jesus have to suffer these things and then enter His glory?”
- Narrator 4** And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to the disciples what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.
- Narrator 1** As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if He were going farther.
- Narrator 2** The disciples urged Jesus strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.”
- Narrator 3** So Jesus went in to stay with them. When Jesus was at the table with the disciples, He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then the disciples’ eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus, and He disappeared from their sight.
- Narrator 4** With much excitement the disciples asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

Bible Discovery

Say: On His walk to Emmaus with these two disciples Jesus gave us a great example of how to share the Scriptures with others.

Write on the board: How to Share the Bible with Others.

1 Read Luke 24:15. What is the first thing Jesus did? (Came to them and walked along with them)

Say: Jesus went to these two people. He didn't wait for them to come to Him. The first example Jesus gives us is to go to where other people are.

Write on the board: Get close to the people you want to reach

2 Read Luke 24:17. What did Jesus show an interest in? (The things they were discussing.)

Say: Jesus showed an interest in the things that interested them.

Write on the board: Discover their interests and concerns

3 Read Luke 24:19-24. What did Jesus do as they explained the things that had happened? (He listened to them)

Say: Jesus listened to those things that were important to them. It is important for you to listen to others before you share with them. If you pray while you listen, God will help you answer the questions they have.

Write on the board: Take time to really listen

4 Read Luke 24:27. What subject did Jesus study with them? (The Messiah.) What did Jesus use to help them understand? (The whole Bible.)

Say: Jesus took Himself as the topic — the Messiah — then He went through the Scriptures from the beginning books by Moses throughout the prophets and explained to them what the Bible had to say about the Messiah.

Write on the board: Study what the whole Bible teaches

Write on the board: Help them discover Jesus in the Bible

5 Read Luke 24: 32. How did these disciples describe their feelings while they listened to Jesus explain the Scriptures? (“Our hearts burned within us.”) What do you think this means? (Acknowledge answers.)

Say: The Holy Spirit makes Scripture connect with our hearts. Remember to pray for His presence and power to help those you study with make a heart connection.

Write on the board: Pray for the Holy Spirit to make a heart connection

Say: Sometimes we don’t know what the Bible says about a question others may have. Remember that it’s OK to say that you don’t know the answer. Promise to study their question and tell them you will let them know what you find out. If you need help, ask your parents or pastor to help you find the answer. Follow through and study together the Scripture passages you have discovered that answer their question.

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, “How can you share God’s Word with others?”
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly your personal experience of studying the Bible with another person. What made this experience meaningful? How did it impact you? How did it impact the other person?

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



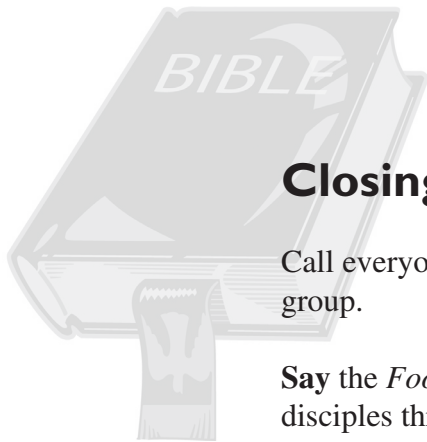
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

You need

- One *My World* for each family
- Pens/pencils

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say the *Footprint* together: Jesus makes disciples through us.

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Say: Helping someone else understand the Bible is an exciting adventure that Jesus is eager for each of us to experience! As you share the Bible with others, Jesus makes disciples through you.

Ask: Did everyone think of a person to study the Bible with? Did everyone think of a Bible topic that could become a Bible study for that person?

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will ask you to share the Bible studies you created and the specific person you want to study with.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- asking Jesus to help everyone be prepared to share the Bible with their friends

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus makes disciples through us.**
2. Parents/mentors **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

Share Jesus as You Read the Bible with Your Friends

In Luke 24 Jesus gives us an example of how to share the Bible with someone else. From Jesus example we learn to do the following:

1. Get close to the people you want to reach Luke 24:15
2. Discover their concerns and questions Luke 24:17
3. Take time to really listen to them Luke 24:17, 19-24
4. Study what the whole Bible teaches Luke 24:27
5. Help them discover Jesus in the Bible Luke 24:27
6. Pray for the Holy Spirit’s presence Luke 24:32

3. Parents/mentors **Share** briefly your experience of studying the Bible with another person. What made this experience meaningful? How did it impact you? How did it impact the other person?
4. **THE CHOICE – Ask:** Would you like to learn how to study the Bible with another person? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** as a family asking the Holy Spirit to help you learn how to use God’s word to study with others and help you know who He wants you to study with.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

Parents/mentors work with your child to complete the following:

1. Who can we share the Bible with now? Write a short list of names.

Select one person and circle his/her name

2. What concerns do you think this person might have?

Select one concern that could be a main topic for a Bible Study, such as Prayer, Forgiveness, Joy, Heaven, etc.

3. Write four questions you might have about this topic.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

4. Make a list of key words that are related to your topic. For example: if your topic is forgiveness: forgive, forgiving, forgiven; if it is joy: happiness, contentment, etc.

5. Continue this activity at home this week using *Mentoring Moments*.

6. Spend some time together in prayer for this person asking God to help you know his/her concerns and find the right time to share the Bible with him/her.

Grace Point — Next week I will ask you to share the Bible studies you created and the specific person you want to study with.

Next week Parents/mentors, you will be asked to share a story from your childhood or youth when someone your own age had a positive influence over you.

Study the Bible with Your Friends

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 23

This week's *Mentoring Moments* is a continuation of "My World" for lesson 24 and needs to be completed before the next small group meeting.

1. A Bible concordance lists keywords found in the Scriptures and all the texts where they are found. Look up each keyword from your "My World" list and read several of the Bible texts given in the concordance. As you prayerfully search the texts, God will help you find the verses that will answer the four questions you wrote in the "My World" activity. As you discover texts and answers, write them beside each question on your "My World" handout. For example: If your subject is "Prayer," one of your questions might be, "When can you talk with Jesus?" You might then list Luke 18:1 as a helpful text, and the Bible answer that "we should always pray." Write Bible verses and answers for all four of your questions on the "My World" handout the use the "Create Your Own Adventure in God's World to Share!" handout to organize your Bible study. Be prepared to change your questions as you study.

2. Think of the person you have selected and list 2-3 interests or hobbies this person has. Create a **Bridge** activity that connects one of their hobbies/interests with the main point of the Bible study you have created. Recall some of the Bridge activities we have used during *Footprints for Kids* to help you think of an activity, such as the Trust Walk, Thumb Wrestle War or Coin Toss.

3. Spend some time in prayer for your friend then contact him/her and say that you have been praying for him/her and you have a Bible study you would like to do together. Invite the person to study with you and set a day and time.

4. During your Bible study time together follow this simple plan:

1. Use the **Bridge** activity to connect the person to the main point of the study.
2. **Pray** together for the Holy Spirit to guide your study.
3. Follow your outline for the **Bible Study**.
4. Let your friend know that you have made this **Choice** by telling a story from your own experience about making this choice yourself. Invite your friend to make a Choice about what he/she has discovered in the Bible by asking, "What is the Holy Spirit prompting you to do about what we have learned?"
5. **Praise** God in prayer together thanking Him for what He has revealed in His Word.
6. **Invite** your friend to study with you again and ask for a topic he/she would like to study.

Topic:

Bridge Activity:

Bible Study:

Question # 1:

Scripture text:

Bible Answer to this Question:

Question # 2:

Scripture text:

Bible Answer to this Question:

Question # 3:

Scripture text:

Bible Answer to this Question:

Question # 4:

Scripture text:

Bible Answer to this Question:

What is the Holy Spirit prompting you to do about what you have discovered?

Prayer

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 24

For Kids

Dare to Stand for Jesus

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time together by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

Say: Last week we learned that we can share the Bible with our friends. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell about the ideas you have for the Bible study you created and with whom you want to study.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time.

Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** how to use their influence to lead others to Jesus
- **Feel** challenged to help their friends learn to trust in Jesus
- **Respond** by committing to be a positive influence on their friends



*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

You need

- Dominos 1 set per 3-4 people
- Long or wide table

Participants will have 5 minutes to work together to stand the dominos on end in a continuous row, or with branches off the main row. The object of this exercise is to knock all the dominoes down by tipping the first domino. When all the dominos are set, choose one honored person to knock over the first domino. If the table is not large enough for everyone to work around, divide into smaller groups at separate tables.

Debrief

Ask: How many dominos did the very first domino hit? (One.) If each domino hit only one other domino, how did they all fall down? (Each one hit the one next to it.) How are you like a domino? (You can influence one other person) How can Christians have a domino effect on the world? (Each one can reach one who can reach one more who can reach one more and on and on until everyone knows Jesus.)

Say: As Christians, we can have a domino effect in our world. We can have a positive influence that spreads from person to person to person.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
Jesus needs us to be a good influence on others.

Bible Discovery

Say: Thousands of years ago, Daniel and his three friends were kidnapped from Jerusalem and taken to Babylon. Depending on the Bible translation you use, they are called “youths,” or “young men,” or even “children.” They probably were not much older than some of you. These boys were prisoners in a foreign land, facing all kinds of temptations and challenges. Let’s see what happened to them.

Distribute the questions to the family groups and allow about 4-5 minutes for them to read the passage and answer the questions. Instruct them to identify what we can learn from Daniel’s example about influencing others to become Jesus’ disciples. As each group reports, write the main point as noted below on the marker board.

Write on the board: How to influence your friends to become Jesus’ disciples

1 Group # 1 — Read Daniel 1:8-15, 18, 20. What choice did Daniel and his friends make in spite of the risks involved? How did their choice influence the chief official? What made their choice difficult? What can we learn from their example?

Write on the board: Stand for what is right

2 Group # 2 — Read Daniel 2:1-6, 13-18. What crisis did Daniel and his friends face? What did Daniel ask his friends to do? Why was it important for them all to pray? What can we learn from Daniel’s example?

Write on the board: Lead your friends to pray

You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- Copies of questions 1-5

Ahead

Copy questions 1-5 on separate slips of paper for distribution.

3 Group # 3 — Read Daniel 2:25-28, 46, 47. Who did Daniel give credit to for revealing King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream? What influence did Daniel’s connection to God have on King Nebuchadnezzar? What can we learn from Daniel’s example?

Write on the board: Focus your friends on Jesus

4 Group # 4 — Read Daniel 3:4-5, 12-18, 28. What test did Daniel’s friends face? What made their choice difficult? What influence did their choice have on King Nebuchadnezzar and everybody watching them? What can we learn from their example?

Write on the board: Be true even if you are the only one

5 Group # 5 — Read Daniel 6:16-23, 25-27. What test did Daniel face? What made his choice difficult? How did Daniel’s choice influence King Darius and others in the kingdom? What can we learn from Daniel’s example?

Write on the board: Let others see God’s power in your life

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, “What did we learn from Daniel’s example about being a positive influence on others?”
3. Encourage adults to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share a story from your childhood or youth of a person who had a positive influence on you. How did his/her influence impact you.

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



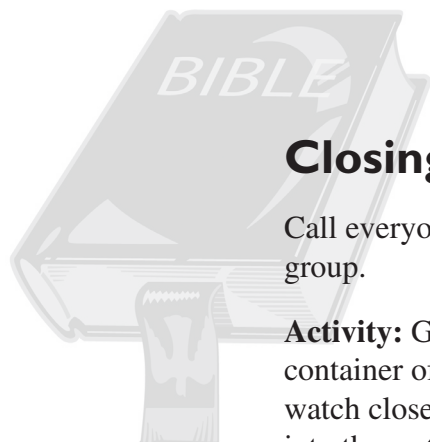
My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders: While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Activity: Gather everyone around the container of water and instruct them to watch closely as you drop a single pebble into the water.

You need

- A large shallow container to hold water
- Pebbles in a variety of sizes
- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Ask: How far did the ripples from the pebble reach? (To the edges of the container.) What would have happened if I had dropped it into a larger body of water like a pond or lake? (The ripples would have reached farther possibly all the way across to the other edge.)

Say: The influence you have over those around you is like the influence this pebble had on this pool of water. That tiny little “kerplunk” is just the beginning; the ripples keep on going and going, long after the pebble has reached the bottom. Your influence may reach farther than you could ever imagine.

Select a second pebble larger or smaller than the first one and drop it into the water.

Say: Any size pebble that is dropped in the water will create ripples. Size doesn't matter. If you are young, old or in between, you can be a positive influence for Jesus.

Say: Think of someone in your home or school or neighborhood or church with whom you have influence. If you want your influence over that person to be good, take a pebble and drop it in the water. As you watch the ripples spread out, ask Jesus to help you be a good influence over that person.

Instruct them to go one at a time so they can watch the ripples from their own pebble.

Say the *Footprint* together: **Jesus needs us to be a good influence on others.**

Say: This is our last *Footprints for Kids* small group meeting. I have been blessed by our time together. I want to encourage you to continue to grow in Jesus – to draw closer to Him each day – to trust Him with everything in your life – to share Him with others.

Celebrate the completion of the *Footprints for Kids* small group. See the preface at the beginning of this notebook for suggestions.

Close with a prayer asking Jesus to help everyone be a good influence on others and thanking Him for the discipleship adventure He has called each of you to take with Him.

My Choice

1. **Say** the *Footprint* together: **Jesus needs us to be a good influence on others.**
2. Parents/mentors **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, “Do you understand what this means?” or “Do you have any questions about this one?” Clarify any points as needed.

Dare to stand for Jesus

1. Stand for what is right Daniel 1:8-15, 18, 20
2. Lead your friends to pray Daniel 2:14-18
3. Focus your friends on Jesus Daniel 2:25-28, 47
4. Be true even if you are the only one Daniel 3:4-5, 12-18, 28
5. Let others see God’s power in your life Daniel 6:16-23, 25-27

3. Parents/mentors **Share** a story from your childhood or youth when someone your own age had a positive influence over you.
4. **THE CHOICE** — **Ask:** Do you choose to be a good influence on others? If your child says “Yes,” affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says “No” or “Not now,” **Say:** It’s all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** together asking God to help you each have a positive influence on others.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Discuss:** Do you think it was easy or difficult for Daniel and his friends to be a good influence over others in Babylon? What impact for God did they have on others? What helped them have a good influence on others?
2. **Discuss:** What things make it difficult for you to be a good influence in our family, in our neighborhood or at school? What can you learn from Daniel's example when it seems really hard to influence others for good?
3. Parents/mentors: **Share** the name of someone in your circle of friends, family, neighbors or co-workers that you would like to influence for good right now. What specific thing can you do to have a positive influence on this person?
4. **Ask:** Who can you influence for good right now?

People I can influence for good:

Specific things I can do to be a good influence on him/her:

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Grace Point — **Say:** Grow closer to Jesus each day. **Know** Him and the Bible truths He has given us. **Show** Him to others so they too can become His disciples.

Dare to Stand for Jesus

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 24

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Exodus 32:1-21

Activity: Play a game of pick-up sticks with your family. If you do not have pick-up sticks, you can use plastic straws or toothpicks.

For Discussion: How does each pick-up stick, straw or toothpick influence the others? In today's passage of Scripture find two cases of someone influencing someone else to do something. Who was weak? Who was strong? How would this story have turned out differently if the weak person had been strong? If the strong person had been weak?

Prayer Point: Ask God to give you the courage and the strength to be a good influence on those around you.

Choice Two

Scripture: John 1:35-44

Activity: With your family, stack dominos on end to form a line that branches into several more. Knock the first one over and watch what happens.

For Discussion: How is today's passage of Scripture like the dominos? If you were to give the dominos human names, what name would you give the first one based on this passage of Scripture? The second? The third?

Prayer Point: Thank Jesus for the influence of godly people in your life. Ask Him to make you like a domino sharing the good news about Him with others.

Choice Three

Scripture: John 4:4-10, 28-30, 39-42

Activity: Find a quiet pond or lake and skip stones with your family. What happens when the stone touches the water?

For Discussion: How was this woman like a skipping stone hitting the water?

Prayer Point: Ask Jesus to open your eyes to the people who need your godly influence. Ask Him to give you the compassion and the courage to lead others to Him.

Choice Four

Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-19

Activity: Hook together a dozen or so paper clips to make a paper clip chain. Hold the chain by one end. Now hold the chain in the middle. Now hold the chain by the other end. Lay the chain on a table and move it by moving just one paper clip. What happens to the other paper clips?

For discussion: When paper clips are hooked together, how many have to move to make the others move? How are the paper clips like the characters in Naaman's story? Who in this story would you name as one of the paper clips at the end? In the middle? At the other end? Does it matter?

Prayer Point: Ask God to make your influence as powerful as the little girl who served Naaman's wife. Pray that your influence will always be positive, even when you find yourself in unpleasant circumstances, just as she was.

Choice Five

Scripture: Esther 4:12-14

Activity: Draw a dot in the center of a piece of paper. Write your name under the dot. Now draw a circle around that dot. Give that circle a name that corresponds to a place where you have influence, such as home, school, a sports team, your group of friends, etc. Continue to draw and name as many circles around your dot as you can think of.

For discussion: Esther seemed a bit reluctant to use her influence at court until Mordecai reminded her that God had placed her in her position for just that purpose. Where has God placed you? How are you using your influence? Do you use it reluctantly or enthusiastically? Why?

Prayer Point: Ask God to open your eyes to the places where He has placed you and to make you aware of the influence you have with others. Ask Him to help you use your positive influence enthusiastically.