

LATE ELEMENTARY

**LEADER GUIDE
SUMMER 2024**



**GODS
WORD**
FOR LIFE
kids



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God's Word for Life



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Late Elementary Leader Guide

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* HS stands for Heritage Sunday

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God's Word for Life Kids Community



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FAQS ABOUT GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE

Is there a family devotional for Late Elementary students?

Family devotional activities are now included as part of the Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Pages. For each lesson, in addition to two pages of learning activities, this resource also includes two pages of daily devotions to be completed at home as a family. To promote discipleship in the home, send each student home with all four pages (two pages front and back) at the end of each lesson. Then encourage families to revisit the lesson throughout the week with these daily discussions.

How should I use this curriculum for a smaller church or a smaller class size?

Every option and idea can be tailored by you to fit your specific resources and teaching methods. If you only have a few students, some ideas intended for larger groups should not be considered for your lesson plan. Other ideas, though, even if written for a larger group, can be creatively adapted for use in smaller class sizes.

To filter out excess activities, consider using the Easy Lesson Planner **DR** to develop an outline focusing only on the options you plan to use. If you feel overwhelmed by the amount of material in the Leader Guide, consider buying the digital version and then working from the Microsoft Word documents provided. This allows you to edit and delete activities to specifically meet your classroom's needs.

For Bible stories calling for multiple actors, consider using dolls or action figures to act out the story. Assign certain figures to students and let them help you tell the story. After the Bible lesson, let students retell the story using the figures.

How should I use this curriculum if I have forty-five minutes or less to teach?

For teachers with shorter teaching times, here is an example of how to assemble an effective lesson plan.

- Be prepared. Do all prep work before class, including developing a lesson plan, allotting time to each section.
- *5 minutes:* Connect with students, get their attention, and go. Use an intro video, lesson-oriented discussion, or action song to engage students and to introduce the Truth about God (TAG). Have a helper take attendance and collect offering as a primary teacher engages students. This section should take no more than five minutes at the beginning of the teaching time.
- *10 minutes:* Once you have students' attention, immediately enter into an Opening Option. Choose one activity or meld the activities that will resonate with your students, but take only ten minutes or less. Your goal in this time is to further expound on the TAG while gaining momentum toward telling the Bible story.
- *15 minutes:* Keeping tight control of the discussion, use the Lesson Lead-In to transition to the Bible Lesson. Knowing you have limited time, these two parts of the lesson should be well rehearsed and take no longer than fifteen minutes.
- *12 minutes:* With the Bible story told, apply the lesson using an Application Option. Choose one activity or meld the activities. Your goal is to lead students into God's presence so they can evaluate how this Bible story should impact their lives moving forward.
- *3 minutes:* At the end of every teaching session, be intentional about helping students find time for personal reflection at an altar of prayer.

The Leader Guide intentionally provides a lot of options. You will not be able to do all the activities. Use the available possibilities to construct the best possible lesson with your students, resources, teaching methods, and teaching time in mind. To help you in this process, see the Easy Lesson Planner **DR**.

What is a whole-church curriculum?

God's Word for Life is a discipleship program intended to lead the entire church from toddlers to adults into God's presence and His Word for lifelong transformation. The adult, youth, and children's levels all start from the same biblical text but then have different age-appropriate applications. Daily devotionals for every age level equip the church to study Scripture daily.

If your entire church has not bought in to the God's Word for Life program, this Late Elementary curriculum can still be used on its own.

LEGEND

DR Digital Resource
in Resource Kit

LG Leader Guide

MW Memory Work

RK Resource Kit

QL Video Quick Links document

TAG Truth about God

TML Truth for My Life

How do I purchase and download my digital resources?

The Leader Guide can be purchased in print or digital versions separately for \$9.99, or together for \$12.99. The digital version comes with a PDF of the guide, as well as a Microsoft Word document for each lesson.

The Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Pages can be purchased as a print or digital version for \$5.49. The digital version comes with a PDF of the resource.

For the Resource Kit (\$29.99), the kit's digital material **DR** is included with your purchase of the print version. It includes access to videos, sound effects, handouts, and many more resources. If you are not accessing the digital materials provided with your Resource Kit, you are missing out on a ton of valuable materials.

After purchasing your materials, download your digital resources using one of the following options:

- *Option 1:* If you purchase online, download your digital resources immediately from the order confirmation screen.
- *Option 2:* An email is sent to the purchaser with a link to the purchased digital content. This email can be forwarded to any teachers who will be using the purchased materials.
- *Option 3:* Provide teachers with access (email and password) to the purchaser's account on the PPH website. On the website, go to "Your Account" and click the appropriate links in the Order History.
- *Option 4:* To access the Resource Kit's digital resources, in addition to the three options above, a download code is provided on the kit's cover sheet. To use this code, visit <https://pentecostalpublishing.com/downloads> and follow the instructions.

How do I access the videos marked with a **QL** in the lesson?

In the lessons, a **QL** icon means a clickable hyperlink is provided in a Video Quick Links document for easy access. Please note that videos are not essential to the lessons but are provided as a fun way to interact with students. We understand some classrooms may not have the technology available to show videos. The Leader Guide provides plenty of content to teach a lesson without showing videos.

After purchasing a Resource Kit and then downloading the digital resources (see instructions above), one of the first files is the Video Quick Links PDF that is specific to the Late Elementary level. Simply open the Video Quick Links document, find the video referenced in the lesson, and click on the icon below the title. If you have internet access, your electronic device should take you to the appropriate web page.

Videos on **vimeo** are produced for God's Word for Life by Pentecostal Resources Group. If your classroom has internet access, Vimeo videos can be livestreamed without fear of commercial interference or uncomfortable video suggestions. Your purchase of the Resource Kit gives you rights to download this Vimeo material. If you prefer to download these videos:

1. Use the Video Quick Links document to go to the Vimeo page.
2. Select the title of the video you want to download.
3. An option to Download or Share the video should appear at the bottom of the screen.

When the Video Quick Links document sends you to websites other than Vimeo (e.g., YouTube, Pinterest), this material was not produced for God's Word for Life but could be fun or helpful in teaching the lesson. Given the transient nature of online publications, it is possible a web address may no longer be active or may have been altered since the print date of this publication. Teachers and leaders should review the terms of service of any website before using it.

FAQS ABOUT GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE

Does God's Word for Life have a Facebook group for teachers?

Yes, join our Facebook group:

God's Word for Life Kids Community

Interact with editors and over 5,000 teachers across all levels. Get decorating ideas, post pictures of your class, and share what God is doing in your church.

Facebook: God's Word for Life
Kids Community



How do I know which level of God's Word for Life to use for my students?

For children, God's Word for Life is broken down into five levels: Little Learners, Kindergarten, Early Elementary, Late Elementary, and MOVE! kids' church. While a recommended age is provided, each level is distinguished by the style of teaching. For children ages 5–12, the relevant levels include the following:

- **Kindergarten** is for children currently in preschool or kindergarten. These children have been introduced to a classroom setting, but they still require large amounts of playtime. This level's content is a mix of being student- and teacher-driven.
- **Early Elementary** is for children who have entered elementary school. Because these students' thinking skills are still largely concrete and literal, the Truth for My Life applications focus on the here and now, with some introduction to abstract thinking. The content is teacher-driven, with a focus on hands-on activities, games, and object lessons.
- **Late Elementary** is for older elementary students who will eventually be transitioning into youth level. As children mature, they develop the ability to think abstractly and comprehend deeper meanings. In this level, the content is teacher-driven, with a focus on discussion and hands-on application.
- **MOVE!** is written for classes containing a wide range of ages from 5–12. If your church places all children in one classroom or gymnasium, small or large, MOVE! is designed for you.

If your students are younger (grades 1–3), but they do not seem challenged by the material being covered in Early Elementary and are able to grasp deeper concepts, consider switching to Late Elementary. If your students are older (grades 4–6), but they do not seem to be grasping the deeper concepts of the Late Elementary material, consider switching to Early Elementary. If you have a wide range of ages, consider the MOVE! kids' church curriculum.

What resources do I need to teach Late Elementary level?

- **Leader Guide (LG):** This 112-page guide provides the lesson content for leaders and teachers to present in Sunday school, home school, or any teaching environment. The LG is available in both print and digital formats.
- **Devotional and Activity Pages:** For each lesson, every student needs an activity page. Each lesson's two pages of activities can be done during class time or at home. In addition, each lesson has a two-page *God's Word for Families* devotional to send home with students. The Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Pages are available in both print and digital formats.
- **Resource Kit (RK):** This packet provides essential supplements to make the lesson come alive. Some lessons require materials only found in the Resource Kit. It is also available in both print and digital formats.

What does DR mean in the lesson?

A **DR** icon means this item is provided as a digital resource in the Resource Kit. To access this material, a Resource Kit must be purchased separately from the Leader Guide, and then the digital resources must be downloaded. The downloads come as zipped files that require a computer. (Smartphones [and some tablets] cannot open zipped folders without specialized apps.) To download the **DR** material, follow the instructions above.

The digital resources **DR** include a variety of tools to help bring your lesson to life.

Does God's Word for Life have classroom décor ideas?



Facebook



Pinterest

Yes. This quarter provides ideas for a God's Army theme. Look for a digital document in the Resource Kit called "Classroom Decor Ideas" . It provides ideas to decorate your classroom.

On Facebook, search for and share your decorating ideas in our group: **God's Word for Life Kids Community**.

To find the Pinterest page, type "https://www.pinterest.com/GodsWordforLife/" (or scan the QR code) to find a page pinned with God's Army ideas, snacks, and activities.

Please note: If you decorate, look for creative ways to tie the theme to the lesson content. Because not all teachers decorate, decor ideas are not mentioned in the lessons of the Leader Guide. At the end of the "Classroom Decor Ideas" document are suggestions to tie the theme to each lesson.

Every teaching situation is different. While some teaching teams entirely transform their classroom or teaching wing with each quarterly theme, others can only decorate a few bulletin boards, and others need decor that can be put up and taken back down each week. Every teacher has a different style, budget, and need. This curriculum is adaptable for every situation.

What does God's Word for Life do to help teachers with students who have special needs?

In conjunction with ABLE Ministry, the digital resources of the Resource Kit for the Kindergarten, Early Elementary, Late Elementary, and MOVE! kids' church levels provide a special needs supplement to the Leader Guide (LG). Teachers can use this document alongside the LG.

In addition, the digital resources of the Resource Kit provide a Spiritual IEP that has been developed by ABLE Ministry. By working with parents and caregivers to fill out this informational form, teachers can better understand some challenges their students face. This information helps ensure each child receives an appropriate amount of assistance and that the correct accommodations are in place in your classroom.

If you have questions regarding a specific disability or teaching challenge, join the ABLE Ministry UPCI Facebook page to network with Apostolic parents and teachers who specialize in ministering to children with special needs.



ABLE Ministry
on Facebook



What is Junior Bible Quizzing?

God's Word for Life is pleased to partner with UPCI Children's Ministries to present Junior Bible Quizzing options. The area of study for 2023-24 is the Book of Acts. The Resource Kit's digital resources provides you with three JBQ documents:

- JBQ Games: This document provides Bible-quizzing game ideas to play with students.
- JBQ Quizzes: This document provides questions to ask during the games. Quiz 1 corresponds with the first set of verses. The content and format of these questions is provided by Terry Marshall, the JBQ Director.
- JBQ Verses: Select and print the JBQ Verses you want your students to study. Once you feel they have mastered the assigned verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses.

For more information on Junior Bible Quizzing, visit the website: www.najbq.com.

SINCERE PRAYER

Matthew 6:5-15

SERIES AIM

To study examples from Jesus' prayers for guidance on how to pray.

SERIES MEMORY VERSES

Philippians 4:6-7

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

BIBLE LESSON VERSE

Matthew 6:6

"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

Looking for classroom decor ideas? See the Classroom Decor Ideas **DR** provided in your digital resources. See page 5.



TRUTH ABOUT GOD

Jesus desires sincere, heartfelt prayer.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will find a quiet place to pray every day.

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read Matthew 6:5-15. Prayerfully consider what these verses say:

ABOUT GOD

The Lord's Prayer is an overview of how we should pray. It covers the three basic elements of prayer: praise, pardon, and petition. First person singular pronouns (*I, me, my, and mine*) are not included. Instead we find *us* and *our*.

TO YOU AS A TEACHER

In Luke 11, when the disciples heard Jesus' prayer, it ignited their desire to pray. Jesus understood the power of an example. That is what the Lord's Prayer is. He could have said, "Everyone should pray" and then hoped for us to figure out how to do it. Instead, He said, "When you pray, pray like this," providing an example of how to pray. Does your passion for prayer ignite your students' desire to pray?

TO YOUR STUDENTS

It is so important for students to develop a personal habit of prayer before they enter their teen years. Show them how a time of worship and devotion can be rewarding. Daily prayer should be much more than a duty or a religious ritual. Through prayer, our heavenly Father shares His wisdom and peace. He provides direction students cannot find from any other source.

SUPPLIES

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

- Prayer area with pillows or chairs, posterboard, marker
- My Hope Radio's prayer station **QL**
- Attendance poster **RKDR**, stickers, Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**

Video Introduction

- "A Fun Song about Prayer" **QL**
- "This 3-Year-Old Leading a Lunch Prayer at School Will Melt Your Heart" **QL**

Opener

- Gift-wrapped box with a beautiful bow

Opening Option 1

- No supplies necessary

Opening Option 2

- Sheets of paper, marker, tape

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Lesson Lead-In

- No supplies necessary

Bible Lesson

- *Per student:* Matthew 6 handout **RKDR**
- Bible

APPLY AND ACT

- *Per student:* Prayer Hand **RKDR**, construction paper, pencil, scissors, markers

Application Option 1

- Skittles candy, whiteboard and markers

Application Option 2

- No supplies necessary

Prayer and Response

- Prayer Pictures **RKDR**
- *Per student:* Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

Preparation

- Set up a prayer area in the room with chairs to kneel at or pillows to kneel on.
 - » Set up a posterboard with markers nearby.
- Establish a peaceful atmosphere that encourages prayer as students arrive. Perhaps dim the lights and play instrumental worship music, such as My Hope Radio's prayer station **QL**.

Instruction

- As students arrive, invite them to kneel and pray in the prayer area.
 - » Direct students to write their prayer requests on the posterboard. Requests will be addressed during Prayer and Response on page 10.
- Take attendance and collect offering.
- Using the Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**, introduce Philippians 4:6-7.
 - » Point out the words *prayer* and *thanksgiving*.
 - » Talk about how we pray and give thanks to God.
- Introduce the Truth about God (TAG): "Jesus desires sincere, heartfelt prayer."

Ready to network with Apostolic teachers from around the world? Join the God's Word for Life Kids Community on Facebook. For more info, see page 4.

Application: Prayer is our connection with Jesus. He loves to talk with us. When we spend time with Him, He desires our prayer to be sincere and heartfelt. In today's lesson we will discuss different methods of prayer.

To learn how to access the videos mentioned in the curriculum, see page 3.

Video Introduction

- When it is time to get students' attention, introduce prayer by using one of these short videos:
 - » "A Fun Song about Prayer" by Minno **QL**
 - » "This 3-Year-Old Leading a Lunch Prayer at School Will Melt Your Heart" by 6ABC Philadelphia **QL**

Opener: "Um, Thanks"

Preparation

- Gift wrap a box and add a beautiful bow.
- Prior to class, ask a student to present the gift to you during Opener. Instruct the student to comment that you did not appear very sincere after receiving the gift.

Instruction

- As you begin to teach, the prepared student should interrupt you to present the gift to you.
 - » In response you should say, "Um, thanks," acting very uninterested and ungrateful, and set the gift aside.
 - » The student should point out your insincerity.

- *Ask:* Do you agree with (*student's name*)'s observation? Should I have been more expressive and more thankful?
- *Ask* a few students to describe or act out a heartfelt, sincere thank you.
 - » For example, a student could act out calling a grandparent to say thanks for an awesome gift.
- *Ask:* How do you feel when someone is grateful for your gift, your time, or something you have done?

Application: Just like we enjoy a sincere thank you, Jesus loves to hear our sincere, heartfelt prayers. Sometimes our prayers may seem rushed and insincere. We might be distracted or in a hurry to do something else, like play a game. We might say big, important words trying to impress other people. Jesus is not interested in rushed, distracted, or pride-filled prayers. He wants us to take time and pray from our hearts.

For additional Opening Options that use different teaching styles, see page 11:

- Option 1: Prayer Postures
- Option 2: Insincere Is Lava

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Bible Lesson Verse

“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly” (Matthew 6:6).

Lesson Lead-In

Instruction

- *Ask:* Who is the most famous person you have ever talked to?
- *Ask:* Would it make you nervous to talk to someone who is famous or very important?
 - » *Ask:* What would you say?
- *Ask:* How would you feel if someone famous or very important stopped to have a conversation with you?
 - » *Ask:* Do you think you would be doing more talking or more listening?

Application: When we pray, we are talking to the most important, famous person ever—the creator of Heaven and Earth. God hears our prayers, and if we learn to listen, He speaks back to us. In the Bible lesson, we will learn what Jesus taught His followers about how to talk to God in prayer.

Bible Lesson: Sincere Prayer (Matthew 6:5–15)

Preparation

- For each student, print a Matthew 6 handout **RK****DR**.

Instruction

- Give each student a Matthew 6 handout **RK****DR**. Students will assist you with reading during the lesson.

In Matthew 5, a large group of people followed Jesus up a mountainside. He used the opportunity to teach a message called the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 5–7 contains the things Jesus taught the people. In Matthew 6, Jesus taught them how to pray.

Read and discuss Matthew 6:5. Do you think Jesus instructed people to pray this way? *Stand with an arrogant, proud posture and pretend to pray with long, elaborate words in a loud voice.* No way! How does Jesus want us to pray? *Read and discuss Matthew 6:6.* Jesus desires humble, sincere prayer. He said we should not try to impress other people when we pray.

If you are not accessing your digital resources, you are missing out. To learn how to download the digital resources **DR**, see page 3.

Truth for My Life: I will find a quiet place to pray every day.

When we pray, our focus should be solely on God. It should be a personal experience that does not require a crowd or a leader. *Read and discuss Matthew 6:7–8.* Jesus said not to repeat a bunch of words over and over just to be saying words. We should keep our prayers simple and humble. God knows everything. In fact, He knows what we are going to pray before we pray. We can share everything with Him.

In verses 9–13, Jesus shared something people call the Lord's Prayer. People like to remember these verses when they are troubled because the verses bring God's peace. In these verses, Jesus taught how to pray. He does not expect us to recite the exact words. Rather, He gave them as an example of things we should pray about.

Read and discuss Matthew 6:9: "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." (*Pause.*) We should begin our prayers by honoring God with worship. We can start with greetings, like "Heavenly Father, Mighty God, or Dear Jesus." We should praise God for who He is—our King of kings, Creator, Healer, Savior, and friend.

Read and discuss Matthew 6:10: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." (*Pause.*) When we feel God's presence, we are experiencing Heaven touching earth. During prayer, we need to ask for God's will to be done on earth, just as it is in Heaven. We surrender our desires to the Lord, searching instead for His plan for our lives.

Read and discuss Matthew 6:11: "Give us this day our daily bread." (*Pause.*) This phrase does not only mean physical food. We can ask the Lord for any need we have, and He will provide.

Read and discuss Matthew 6:12: "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." (*Pause.*) When we pray, we should repent of our sins, asking God to forgive us and make us clean. After prayer, we should not have any sin left in our heart.

- *Ask:* What does it mean to "forgive our debtors"?

Forgiveness is a necessary part of prayer. If we will not forgive others, Jesus said we cannot be forgiven. We must forgive people who have hurt us. When we forgive others, Jesus gives us peace and comforts our hurt feelings.

Read and discuss the first part of Matthew 6:13: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." (*Pause.*) When we pray, we should ask God to help us stay away from evil. He will help us resist temptation, foolish choices, and sin, but we must be willing to listen and obey. Jesus wants to guide us with the power of His Holy Spirit so we can overcome sin and make good choices.

Read and discuss the second part of Matthew 6:13: "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." (*Pause.*) Jesus taught us to end our prayers with worship. Heaven and earth belong to God. Through Jesus, we have the promise of eternal life. When we pray, we are asking to see His kingdom, His power, and His glory for ever and ever. Hallelujah! Then we seal our prayer by saying, "In Jesus' name, amen."

Read and discuss Matthew 6:14–15. Jesus added one more very important point. If we cannot forgive, neither will He. When we forgive, He promises to forgive us.

Review Questions

- Does God want us to say the exact words of the Lord's Prayer every time we pray? Why or why not?
- What did Jesus mean by "daily bread"?
- During prayer, name one thing Jesus said we do if we want to be forgiven.
- Why doesn't Jesus want us to make a big show when we pray?
- How will you develop a habit of daily prayer?
- How will you change the way you pray after hearing this lesson?

While the second part of Matthew 6:13 is included in the KJV, many translations exclude this text, adding a footnote that it was an addition of later manuscripts. Since elementary students are not ready for textual criticism, the text from the footnotes has been added to the NLT portion of the handout.

APPLY AND ACT

A Place of Prayer

Preparation

- For each student, print a Prayer Hand **RKDR**, found on the back of the Matthew 6 handout.

Instruction

- Give each student a Prayer Hand **RKDR**, a pencil, construction paper, scissors, and markers.
- Instruct students to make their own prayer hand on the construction paper.
 - » Students use pencil to trace around their own hand.
 - » Then they cut out the handprint.
 - » Using markers, students write the words on each finger: WORSHIP, PRAISE, PETITION, REPENTANCE, and FORGIVENESS.
- Explain that *petition* means asking God for our needs and requests.
- In the center of the handprint, students write the Truth for My Life (TML): "I will find a quiet place to pray every day."
- Pair up students.
 - » Let students share ideas for each step of prayer written on their handprints.
 - » As they do, they should fold down the finger of the word they discuss.

Application: Each of us should do our best to find a quiet place to pray every day. Our prayers should include words of worship, praise, petition, repentance, and forgiveness.

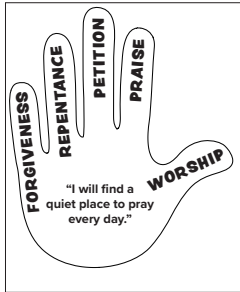
For additional Application Options that use different teaching styles, see page 11:

- Option 1: Skittles Prayer
- Option 2: Discussing Prayer

Prayer and Response

Instruction

- Have students find a quiet place to pray.
 - » Thank Jesus for showing us how to pray.
 - » Begin with worship, praise, repentance, and forgiveness.
 - » Pray for the needs on the prayer request poster created during Connect (page 7).
 - » End the prayer with worship.
- Encourage students to find quiet times to pray in the morning, at night, and throughout the day.
- Send each student home with an Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page.



Truth for My Life: I will find a quiet place to pray every day.

OPENING OPTION 1

Prayer Postures

Instruction

- Discuss various postures of prayer, which include raising your hands, singing, kneeling, bowing your head, walking while praying and lying on the floor.
- Say: Jesus wants to hear our prayers—from whatever posture we choose.
- Play Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Pray.
 - » As you call out “head,” “shoulders,” and “knees,” students touch the called-out areas on their bodies. As you continue to call out parts, get faster and faster.
 - » On “pray,” students choose a prayer posture and freeze until you start again.

Application: Jesus loves every sincere posture of prayer.

OPENING OPTION 2

Insincere Is Lava

Preparation

- On paper (one word per sheet), use a marker to write synonyms and antonyms of *sincere*.
 - » **Synonyms:** honest, genuine, serious, authentic, earnest, real, true, truthful, frank, open, wholehearted, respectful, reverent, humble, heartfelt
 - » **Antonyms:** dishonest, fake, fraud, hypocritical, deceitful, two-faced, artificial, insincere, untruthful
- Tape down the sheets of paper in a scattered pattern across the floor.

Instruction

- Students line up on one side of the room.
- Say: Imagine the floor and the antonyms of the word sincere are hot lava. One at a time, you must cross the room by stepping only on synonyms of the word sincere. If you step on “lava,” you must return to the end of the line and wait for another try.
- Students who successfully navigate the path may return to their seats.
- Continue until all students have made it across the room.

Application: This game helps us understand the definition of *sincere* and how it relates to prayer. Jesus loves sincere, heartfelt prayer.

APPLICATION OPTION 1

Skittles Prayer

Preparation

- On the board, write:

Red = Worship	Orange = Praise
Yellow = Petition	Green = Repentance
Purple = Forgiveness	

Instruction

- Briefly review each part of the Lord's Prayer.
- Give each student one Skittle.
 - » Using the chart on the board, ask students to consider the part of prayer that coincides with the color of their candy. For example, the student with a green candy might consider asking God to forgive a lie.
- Let students share their ideas with each other.
- Continue the discussion, handing out additional pieces of candy, until students are familiar with each part of prayer.

Application: During our quiet times of prayer, we should include worship, praise, petition, repentance, and forgiveness.

APPLICATION OPTION 2

Discussing Prayer

Instruction

- Ask: Do you pray when you wake up in the morning?
 - » Say: Making God the first thing you think about each day is important.
- Ask: Do you pray at night before you go to bed?
 - » Say: Going over your day with God is important for a good night's rest.
- Ask: Do you pray at meals?
- Ask: Throughout the day, when and where should you pray?
 - » Say: Prayer is a choice you make. No one can stop you from praying. You decide when and where you will pray.
- Ask: Can you pray at school? in a crowded building? in a loud place? in a quiet place?

Application: No matter where we are, God hears us and cares about what we are saying. We should not pray for others to see us, but for God to hear us. If others hear us, that is OK, as long as we know God hears us.



WORSHIP

Supplies: Video Quick Links document **DR**

Instruction

- “When I Pray” by David and Stephanie Hutton **QL**
- “The Lord’s Prayer (It’s Yours)” by Matt Maher **QL**
- “Here on Earth (As in Heaven)” by First Church Worship **QL**
- “Our Father” by Ted Keith **QL**
- “I Am a Child of God” by Draylin Young **QL**
- “I’m So Blessed” by CAIN **QL**

Application: Jesus loves our sincere, heartfelt worship. Our prayers should include worship every day.

GAME OPTION

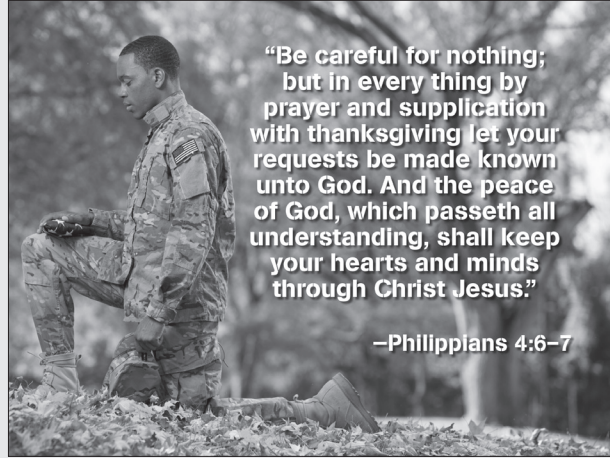
Blessing Magnets

Supplies: Magnet, paper clips, timer

Instruction

- Scatter paper clips on a table.
- Choose a volunteer.
 - » Challenge the volunteer to use a magnet to pick up as many paper clips as possible in five seconds.
 - » After time is up, the student should name a blessing from God for each paper clip.
- Choose another student, reset the timer, and continue as time permits.

Application: When we pray with faith and sincere hearts, we become magnets for God’s blessings.



MEMORY WORK

Series 1 Memory Verses: Philippians 4:6-7

Supplies: Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**

Instruction

- Using the Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**, introduce Philippians 4:6-7.
- Read the verses together several times while doing motions.

Be careful for nothing, nothing, nothing
(*clap hands together three times*);

But in every thing by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving (*cross arms over chest*)
Let your requests be made known unto God
(*point up*).

And the peace of God (*make a circular
motion with both hands*),

Which passeth all understanding (*hold
hands with palms up*),

Shall keep your hearts and minds (*tap your
heart and the sides of your head*)

Through Christ Jesus (*ASL sign for Jesus*).

Philippians 4:6-7 (*clap and jump three times*)

Application: These verses teach us to pray rather than worry. *Supplication* means asking with a sincere heart. We can thank God in advance for taking care of our situations, because He knows what we need better than we ever will. When we keep our hearts sincere and focus our thoughts on the Lord, these verses promise God will give us peace.

Truth for My Life: I will find a quiet place to pray every day.

JBQ OPTION

Preparation

- Select one of the JBQ Games **DR**. Some games require additional props.
- Locate the JBQ Quiz(zes) **DR** that correspond with the current set(s) of verses being studied.

Instruction

- Distribute the current set of JBQ Verses **DR** to new students.
- Play the prepared game with students.
- If students have mastered the verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses **DR**. Otherwise let them study the same set of verses again for next week.



CRAFT OPTION

Prayer Ideas Booklet

Supplies per student: Construction paper, white paper, stapler, markers, stickers, art supplies

Preparation

- For each student, make a booklet:
 - » Fold a sheet of construction paper in half.
 - » Fold three sheets of white paper in half.
 - » Enclose the paper in the construction paper and staple along the fold.

Instruction

- Give each student a booklet.
- Instruct students to design a book of ideas to guide them through prayer:
 - Page 1 = WORSHIP
 - Page 2 = PRAISE
 - Page 3 = THANKSGIVING
 - Page 4 = REPENTANCE
 - Page 5 = CONFESSION
 - Page 6 = ASKING FOR NEEDS

Application: You can use these booklets daily to help focus your thoughts as you pray.

SNACK OPTION

Orange You Glad?

Supplies: Oranges, knife, tray, paper plates, napkins, cups, drinks

Preparation

- Slice oranges and place them on a tray.

Instruction

- Ask a student to give thanks for the snack.
- Before students choose oranges for their plates, instruct them to ask each other: "Orange you glad we learned how to pray today?"
- Ask each student to share one benefit of sincere, daily prayer.
- Pray and enjoy snack.

Application: When we learn how to sincerely pray every day, we will stay close to Jesus and experience His love, peace, and joy.

VIDEO REVIEW

- To review the Bible lesson, show one of the following videos:
 - » "Learn the Lord's Prayer" by Minno **QL**
 - » "Our Father Prayer" by EWTN **QL**
 - » "The Lord's Prayer for Kids" by ShareFaith Kids **QL**

1.2

SERIES 1: JESUS TEACHES HOW TO PRAY

HELP WANTED

Matthew 9:35–38

SERIES AIM

To study examples from Jesus' prayers for guidance on how to pray.

SERIES MEMORY VERSES

Philippians 4:6–7

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

BIBLE LESSON VERSE

Matthew 9:38

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."



TRUTH ABOUT GOD

Jesus calls His church to pray for more workers.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will pray for God to send more workers to reach our lost world.

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read Matthew 9:35–38. Prayerfully consider what these verses say:

ABOUT GOD

As Jesus preached throughout the region, He saw people who needed guidance, help, and teaching. His request to His disciples was: "Pray for laborers in the harvest." Jesus saw all the hurting people and knew He needed more people who were willing to reach those who still needed to know about Him. In addition to sending them out, Jesus also called on them to pray for more workers.

TO YOU AS A TEACHER

To do a job requires training, especially in children's ministry. As workers come in response to your prayer for laborers, be prepared to train them. See the Apostolic Teacher Training courses at MinistryCentral.com for more information.

TO YOUR STUDENTS

Many students gravitate toward their own groups of friends. Show them how much Jesus cares for every person in our world. Challenge students to look beyond their own circles and become aware of people who need Jesus. A student can be an important worker in the spiritual harvest. It can be as simple as speaking encouraging words to other students at school, inviting a lonely student to join an activity, or showing respect and kindness to a teacher.



SUPPLIES

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

- Farmer costume
- Globes, world maps
- Attendance poster **RKDR**, stickers, Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**

Video Introduction

- UPCI Global Missions deputation video **QL**
- “You Can Plant a Church, We’re Here to Help” **QL**

Opener

- *Per student:* Paper, marker
- Globes, world maps, 2 smartphones, Bible

Opening Option 1

- Tall canning jar, match, balloon

Opening Option 2

- Large bag of pom-poms, paper bags, timer

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Lesson Lead-In

- Seasonal produce to serve (e.g., tomatoes, strawberries), napkins

Bible Lesson

- Gardening Tools visual **RKDR**, Bibles, whiteboard and markers

APPLY AND ACT

- World map or globe from Connect
- UPCI Global Missions Directory **QL**

Application Option 1

- Instrumental worship music
- *Per student:* UPCI Global Missions Missionary Prayer Calendar **QL**
- *Optional:* Paper, markers, smartphones

Application Option 2

- *Per student:* Bible Verses for Discussion **RKDR**

Prayer and Response

- World map or globe from Connect, Global Missions website **QL**
- *Per student:* Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

Preparation

- Dress like a farmer to greet students.
- Display globes and world maps around the classroom.

Instruction

- As students arrive, tell them it is time for the harvest.
- Take attendance and collect offering.
- Review the Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**—Philippians 4:6–7.
- Introduce the TAG: “Jesus calls His church to pray for more workers.”

Application: In this lesson, we will learn that Jesus called us to pray for more workers to share His message and His peace around the world.

Video Introduction

- When it is time to get students’ attention, introduce missions by showing a video:
 - » UPCI Global Missions deputation video **QL** of your choice
 - » “You Can Plant a Church, We’re Here to Help” by North American Missions UPCI **QL**.

Opener: God’s Message

Preparation

- Have your phone ready to call the phone of a student who is in class.

Instruction

- *Ask:* Where are we? *On a globe or map, let students point out your location.*
- Comment on all the different countries and continents.
 - » *Say:* The world is so much bigger than just us and our concerns.
- Give each student paper and a marker.
 - » *Say:* On your paper, draw a dot for every person you have ever known. It could be a friend, a family member, a person you saw in a video, a person you read about, a person you passed on the street or saw at the store—every person ever.
 - » Let students draw dots for a few minutes.
- *Say:* Every one of these people needs to know Jesus, but how can we possibly reach them all? The church definitely needs more workers. But how? Wouldn’t it be nice if God would just call us? What would He say?

Truth about God: Jesus calls His church to pray for more workers.

- » Call a student's phone. Engage in conversation, starting with pleasantries. Then say, "I was just calling to let you know I have a message from God. He says He wants you to pray for more workers in the harvest field of His kingdom. He wants you to help people study the Bible and learn how to serve Jesus. He wants you to help prepare people for Heaven." (*Hang up.*)
- *Say:* I could actually have this exact conversation with every single person in this classroom because it is God's will for each of us to pray for more people to work in God's harvest field.
- *Ask a student to read Matthew 9:38:* "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

Application: Jesus calls each of us to work in His kingdom. He wants us to share His love with the people close to us. He also wants us to pray for people all around the world.

For additional Opening Options that use different teaching styles, see page 19:

- Option 1: Staying Close to Jesus
- Option 2: Quicker Picker Upper

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Bible Lesson Verse

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:38).

Lesson Lead-In

Preparation

- Prepare to serve a sample of produce that is seasonal in your area, such as tomatoes or strawberries. Be sure to check students' allergies.

Instruction

- Serve the seasonal produce.
- As students eat, discuss the process of planting, caring for, and harvesting the plants.
 - » *Say:* These plants don't just grow on their own. They need to be planted, tended, and then harvested. For these plants to succeed, it took a lot of hard work from quite a few workers.
- *Ask:* What happens to fruits or vegetables when they are not picked?
 - » *Say:* If there are no workers to pick the fruits or vegetables, they will rot on the vine and go to waste. For the harvest to be gathered, there must be workers.

Application: In today's Bible story, we will learn about when Jesus compared the people in the world to plants that grow and need to be harvested. For them to be harvested, workers are needed.

Bible Lesson: A Plea for the Harvest (Matthew 9:35–38)

Instruction

How many people are in the world? . . . Right now, there are approximately 8.1 billion people in the world. Of this 8.1 billion people, how many of them need Jesus? . . . All of them. God does not want any of them to perish. That's a lot of people to reach.

Ask students to look up Matthew 9 in their Bibles. In Matthew 9, Jesus compared this lost and dying world to a harvest field. He said the fields were ripe and ready for harvest. Starting with His twelve disciples, Jesus wanted His followers to tell the whole world about Him before it was too late. *On the board write: 12 → 8.1 billion.*

Truth for My Life: I will pray for God to send more workers to reach our lost world.

While Jesus was on earth, He traveled from village to village, teaching and preaching to people about God's kingdom. When Jesus saw the crowds of people, He had compassion on them because they were like scattered sheep without a shepherd. He could see they needed help. When He saw what people needed, He prayed for them. He was showing how He wanted us to pray.

As word about Jesus spread, all types of sick, hurting, and dying people came to Him. Parents brought their sick and dying children to Him. People who could not walk were carried to Him. People who could not see or hear cried out to Him. People came to Jesus as a last resort, hoping this miracle worker could heal them.

What are some sicknesses people have? *As students name sicknesses, confirm that Jesus prayed for that sickness.* Jesus was showing us how He wants us to pray for people who are sick and dying.

As Jesus taught, He also prayed for people's family problems. What are some problems families might have? *As students name problems, confirm that Jesus prayed for that problem.* Jesus was showing us how He wants us to pray for people who have family problems.

As Jesus taught, all types of sad and lonely people came to Him. Jesus prayed for them, wanting them to feel the peace and joy of the Lord. As Jesus prayed, the people of each village felt His love and care.

As countless people came to Jesus for help, He wanted His disciples to see what needed to be done. *Ask a student to read Matthew 9:37-38.* Jesus said, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Jesus wanted His disciples to pray for God to send more people to help those in need. With more workers, the gospel message can reach more people.

*Show the Gardening Tools visual **RRDR**. Let students identify each tool and discuss its function.* When we work in a garden, we have tools to help us get the job done. In God's harvest, we don't use tools like rakes and shovels. God provides different tools for working in His harvest.



Have a student read Ephesians 4:11-12: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." This passage describes five types of workers called to help spread the gospel—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. These people work together to teach, serve, and build up the body of Christ.

You and I are called to be workers in God's harvest field. We cannot do it all on our own, so Jesus wants us to pray for more workers. He wants us to pray for the people around us who need help. When we pray we say, "In Jesus' name," because His name is powerful. Will you pray in Jesus' name for people to become workers in God's harvest?

Review Questions

- When Jesus talked about His harvest, was He referring to vegetables and fruits? What did He mean?
- Who are the workers in God's harvest?
- What did Jesus want the church to pray for? *More workers.* Why?
- Describe how Jesus cared for the people in the villages He visited. Does He expect the same ministries from us?
- How will you work in God's harvest?

APPLY AND ACT

Reaching the World

Instruction

- *Say:* As I make each statement, choose if it is true or false. *As students answer, discuss the correct answers and address any questions.*
 1. Big words are required in order to reach Heaven. In fact, it is best to use a dictionary or thesaurus. (*False*)
 2. The longer the prayer, the more powerful it is. (*False*)
 3. More words in a prayer mean more power. (*False*)
 4. When it comes to prayer, time and place don't matter. (*True*)
 5. The most important part of prayer is asking for things we want. (*False*)
 6. When you don't receive an immediate answer to your prayer, you should stop asking. (*False*)
- *Say:* We can pray at any time, in any place, and we can speak whatever comes to our minds. Prayer is simply talking to Jesus. He loves to hear from us.
- As a class, say the TML: "I will pray for God to send out more workers into the world."
- Show a world map or globe.
 - » Discuss the various continents and countries. Identify where you live.
- *Say:* Jesus called us to pray for more workers.
 - » *Ask:* Should we wait to respond to God's call or jump into action right away?
- Students take turns choosing countries around the world.
 - » Using the UPCI Global Missions Directory [\(QL\)](#), look up the missionaries for those countries or regions.
 - » Lead students in prayer for those missionaries and for more workers in each of those countries.



Application: We can pray for God to send more workers to reach our lost world.

For additional Application Options that use different teaching styles, see page 19:

- Option 1: Prayers for Workers
- Option 2: What Should I Do?

Prayer and Response

Instruction

- Lead students to the world map or globe from Connect.
 - » Use the map or globe to pray for workers who are already working in God's harvest.
 - » Ask the Lord to send workers to specific continents, nations, and cities.
 - » Ask the Lord to help students become more mindful of the harvest field all around them—their families, friends, and community members.
 - » Pray for wisdom to make connections with people who need to experience His love.
- Send each student home with an Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page.
- During the week, make daily posts on social media about countries that need workers.
 - » Access the Global Missions website [\(QL\)](#) to find opportunities to be involved in various countries.

Truth for My Life: I will pray for God to send more workers to reach our lost world.

OPENING OPTION 1

Staying Close to Jesus

Instruction

- Inflate a balloon so it is bigger than the mouth of a tall canning jar and tie it off.
- Light a match and drop it into the bottom of the jar.
 - » Let the match continue to burn for several seconds.
- Place the balloon over the mouth of the jar.
 - » As the flame extinguishes, a vacuum seal will form between the balloon and the jar.
- Pick up the balloon, showing how the jar remains attached to the balloon.
- Compare the attachment to a close walk with Jesus.

Application: When we pray and stay close to Jesus, our hearts will align with His. As we follow His instructions and go where He wants us to go, He will open our eyes to see a vast spiritual harvest—people who need to know Jesus. As we work for Him, He wants us to pray for other Christians to help in His harvest too. Jesus wants us to stay close to Him and pray for laborers in His harvest.

OPENING OPTION 2

Quicker Picker Upper

Instruction

- *Show a bag of pom-poms and say:* These pom-poms represent the many people in the world who do not know Jesus. As a church, our job is to tell them about Jesus.
- Select one student to be the “worker.” Give that student a paper bag.
- Dump the entire bag of pom-poms on the floor.
- Time the student to see how quickly he or she can collect all the pom-poms while the other students watch.
- Next, give bags to two students and repeat the activity. Compare the time.
- Continue repeating the activity, adding a few more students each time and comparing the time it takes with additional help.

Application: With more workers, the pom-poms could be “reached” more quickly. That is why Jesus called His church to pray for more workers. With more workers, more people can hear about Jesus.

APPLICATION OPTION 1

Prayers for Workers

Preparation

- For each student, print a UPCI Global Missions Missionary Prayer Calendar **QL**.

Instruction

- Give each student a UPCI Global Missions Missionary Prayer Calendar **QL**.
- Have each student select one missionary or region to pray for.
- *Optional:* Let students look up that country’s flag and recreate it on a sheet of paper.
- Dim the lights, play instrumental worship music, and have a concentrated time of prayer.

Application: Jesus is calling His church to pray for more workers. We can pray for God to send more workers to reach our lost world.

APPLICATION OPTION 2

What Should I Do?

Preparation

- For each student, print the Bible Verses for Discussion **RKDR**.

Instruction

- Consider forming small groups for the following discussion.
- *Ask:* How did this lesson make you more aware of God’s plan for His people?
- *Ask:* How did the lesson show you how much Jesus cares for all people around the world?
- *Ask:* What plans do you have to help in God’s harvest?
- Give each student a Bible Verses for Discussion **RKDR** handout.
 - » *Say:* These verses give clues about the importance of the lesson and how it applies to our lives.
- Read and discuss each verse, allowing students to share their observations.

Application: Jesus wants us to pray for more workers in the world. He also wants us to be workers who realize our important roles in His kingdom. When we are filled with God’s Spirit, we can share His love, speak the right words at the right time, and faithfully pray for God’s harvest every day.

Truth about God: Jesus calls His church to pray for more workers.

WORSHIP

Supplies: Video Quick Links document **DR**, whiteboard and markers

Instruction

- Write the following acrostic on the board:
 - P** praise
 - R** repent
 - A** ask
 - Y** yield
- Point out the acrostic on the board and lead students in these steps of prayer.
- Then worship together:
 - » “When I Pray” by David and Stephanie Hutton **QL**
 - » “Help Me” by Cortt Chavis **QL**
 - » “It’s for Me, It’s for You” by PPH Kids Music **QL**
 - » “Use Me” by Jonathan Hudoff **QL**
 - » “Pour It Out” by NAYC 2021 **QL**
 - » “Let Them See You” by JJ Weeks Band **QL**

Application: Jesus is trusting in us. His Holy Spirit empowers us. He wants us to humble ourselves and pray for more workers in His harvest.

CRAFT OPTION

Illustrate the Harvest

Supplies: Fruits and veggies (e.g., apples, strawberries, potatoes, carrots), knife, tray, disposable tablecloths, smocks, white cardstock (1 per student), containers of paint and water, wipes

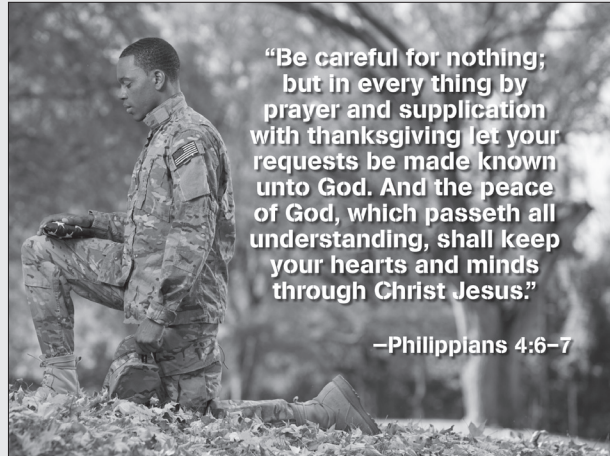
Preparation

- This activity could get messy, so plan accordingly with table coverings and smocks.
- Cut up different fruits and veggies into various shapes.
 - » Place them on a tray.

Instruction

- Set out containers of paint and water.
- Give each student a sheet of white cardstock.
- Let students dip fruit and veggie pieces into the paint and use the shapes to create designs.

Application: Keep your artistic creations as a reminder to pray for a world that is ripe and ready for harvest. We should pray for God to send the right people to minister to the needs of the world.



MEMORY WORK

Series 1 Memory Verses: Philippians 4:6–7

Supplies: Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**, Series 1 MW Fruit **DR**

Preparation

- Print the Series 1 MW Fruit **DR**.
 - » “Plant” the fruit and vegetables around the classroom.

Instruction

- Review the Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**—Philippians 4:6–7.
- Instruct students to “harvest” the verses by gathering the fruits and vegetables.
- After students assemble the verses in order on the floor or taped to a wall, recite the verses multiple times.

Application: Our memory verses remind us of the importance and value of prayer. When we pray, Jesus wants us to ask Him for more workers in His harvest field.

VIDEO REVIEW

- To review the Bible lesson, show:
 - » “Matthew 9:35–38 | The Harvest is Plentiful, But the Workers are Few” by Christian Motivation Media **QL**
 - » “June 14 Matthew 9:35–10:8” by CtKOnlineFaithFormation **QL**
 - » “Teaching, Preaching and Healing • Matthew 9:35 • Scripture Song” by Sounds of Scripture **QL**

Truth for My Life: I will pray for God to send more workers to reach our lost world.

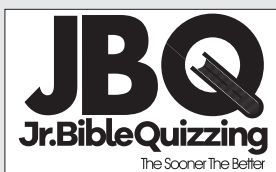
JBQ OPTION

Preparation

- Select one of the JBQ Games **DR**. Some games require additional props.
- Locate the JBQ Quiz(zes) **DR** that correspond with the current set(s) of verses being studied.

Instruction

- Distribute the current set of JBQ Verses **DR** to new students.
- Play the prepared game with students.
- If students have mastered the verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses **DR**. Otherwise let them study the same set of verses again for next week.



APOSTOLIC PRAYER OPTIONS

- To generate great additional prayer ideas, check out the following Apostolic resources:
 - » Kids Prayer—World Network of Prayer Facebook page **QL**
 - » Kids Prayer on X (Twitter) **QL**

GAME OPTION

Bring in the Harvest

Supplies: Fruits and vegetables (fake or real), baskets

Preparation

- Hide the fruits and vegetables around the room.

Instruction

- Form teams. Give each team a basket.
- Instruct teams to gather the harvest by searching for fruits and vegetables, but they must stay connected to each other by locking elbows.
 - » When they find a fruit or vegetable, they should place it in their team's basket.
- The team with the most fruits and vegetables is the winner.

Application: As we pray for God to send more workers into the harvest, we can also be workers for God in His fields.



SNACK OPTION

Fruit Kabobs

Supplies: Kabob skewers, various fruits, small plates, napkins, cups, drinks

Instruction

- As you thank the Lord for the snack, pray for the people of the world who are waiting to hear about Jesus.
- Serve students their fruit on a stick.
- **Ask:** Aren't you glad someone harvested this fruit before it became too ripe so you could enjoy it?

Application: We must pray for God to send out more workers into the world so all people can hear the good news before it is too late.

13

SERIES 1: JESUS TEACHES HOW TO PRAY

GIVE IT TO JESUS

Matthew 11:25–30

SERIES AIM

To study examples from Jesus' prayers for guidance on how to pray.

SERIES MEMORY VERSES

Philippians 4:6–7

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

BIBLE LESSON VERSE

Matthew 11:28

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."



TRUTH ABOUT GOD

Jesus offers help and rest when life is hard and we are weary.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will release my problems to God in prayer.

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read Matthew 11:25–30. Prayerfully consider what these verses say:

ABOUT GOD

When we are tired and worn out, when life feels overwhelming, when we have big feelings, we can go to Jesus. In Matthew 11:28, He said: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." People of all ages have struggles, get weary, and need help. God never belittles our frustrations. He offers help and rest, calling us to exchange life's heavy loads for peace and joy.

TO YOU AS A TEACHER

At times life may seem unfair or overwhelming. When you cannot lift those heavy things, Jesus can. Jesus said His yoke is easy and His burden is light. If you find living for God burdensome, check your load. You may be carrying something you were never intended to bear.

TO YOUR STUDENTS

In today's fast pace, students need to learn to come to Jesus for rest. Life can be tiresome for busy families. Even at this age, your students carry burdens, just as you do. Be sensitive to students who may be facing grave situations or confusing circumstances. Our Savior wants to reach out to them in compassion and love. More than ever we need to train our students to rely on Jesus. He offers a solution—sweet rest.

SUPPLIES

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

- Pajamas or a robe, backpack, bowling ball
- Attendance poster **RKDR**, stickers, Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**

Video Introduction

- “100 Kids who Fell Asleep in the Most Hilariously Awkward Ways” **QL**
- “Funny Dog Snoring Loud When Sleeping” **QL**

Opener

- Backpack and bowling ball from Connect
- Heavy items, digital bathroom scale

Opening Option 1

- *Per team:* Backpack, bowling ball
- Masking tape

Opening Option 2

- 2 chairs

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Lesson Lead-In

- No supplies necessary

Bible Lesson

- Bibles, lots of bags (e.g., suitcases, duffle bags, backpacks), tangled strand of Christmas lights, untangled strand of Christmas lights, tape, long pole or broomstick, Yoked Oxen visual **RKDR**

APPLY AND ACT

- No supplies necessary

Application Option 1

- *Per student:* Bottle of bubbles

Application Option 2

- *Per student:* Paper, pen

Prayer and Response

- *Per student:* Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

Preparation

- Wear modest pajamas or a robe to greet students.
- Place a heavy bowling ball in a backpack.

Instruction

- Greet students while holding the backpack containing the bowling ball.
 - » Comment on how heavy the backpack is, letting students hold it for a few seconds.
 - » Continue holding the backpack into the first section of the lesson.
- Collect offering and record attendance.
- Review the Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**—Philippians 4:6–7.
- Point out your pajamas or robe as you introduce the TAG: “Jesus offers help and rest when life is hard and we are weary.”

Application: I’m wearing pajamas (or a robe) because today we will learn how Jesus can help us find rest. When I think of rest, I think of sleep. . . . Wow, I sure feel like I need rest; this backpack is heavy.

Video Introduction

- When it is time to get students’ attention, play a few minutes of a video about funny resters:
 - » “100 Kids who Fell Asleep in the Most Hilariously Awkward Ways” by Babiez TV **QL**
 - » “Funny Dog Snoring Loud When Sleeping • Compilation 2016” by Funny Cat and Dog **QL**

Opener: Heavy Labor

Preparation

- For this activity, use the backpack and bowling ball from Connect.
- Gather heavy things from around the house or church.
- Locate a bathroom scale, preferably digital.

Instruction

- While continuing to hold the heavy backpack, display the heavy items.
 - » Ask students to guess the weight of each item, arranging them from lightest to heaviest.
- After students make their guesses, weigh each item on the scale to determine the correct order.
- Weigh your backpack.
 - » Explain how tiring it has been to carry it around.
- *Ask:* How do you think I feel after carrying around this backpack?
 - » *Say:* After carrying this heavy load, I need rest.

Truth about God: Jesus offers help and rest when life is hard and we are weary.

Application: Carrying this heavy backpack is like carrying heavy things in life, such as having a hard day at school, the huge job of cleaning a messy room, or when someone you love is sick. When you are worried about things, it can feel heavy. Jesus offers help and rest when life is hard and we are weary.

For additional Opening Options that use different teaching styles, see page 27:

- Option 1: Help or No Help
- Option 2: My Hands?

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Bible Lesson Verse

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

Lesson Lead-In

Instruction

- Tell a short story about a time when you needed help and someone helped you.
- *Ask:* Have you ever needed someone to help you carry something heavy?
 - » *Ask:* Who are some people who like to help you? *Mom, Dad, siblings, friends, teachers, and so on*

Application: It is easier to carry heavy things if we have help. Sometimes in life we must carry heavy things, like troubles, hurts, or pains. In today’s Bible story, we will learn how Jesus said to ask for help to find rest.

Bible Lesson: Jesus Offers Help (Matthew 11:25–30)

Preparation

- Gather an assortment of empty bags, such as suitcases, duffle bags, backpacks, and so on. Figure out how you will hold them all as you tell the Bible story.
- Neatly tape an untangled strand of Christmas lights to a wall near an outlet so it can easily be plugged in.
 - » You will also need a tangled strand of Christmas lights.
- Find a long pole or broomstick to use as a yoke.

Instruction

- Put on or hold all the bags at one time to teach the Bible lesson.
- Ask students to look up Matthew 11:20–30 in their Bibles. They will read throughout the lesson.

Ask a student to read Matthew 11:20. Jesus was frustrated. As He traveled with His disciples, preaching and doing miracles in the Jewish cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum, He expected people to repent of their sins and follow after God. *Ask a student to read verse 24.* Jesus warned them that on Judgment Day, they would regret their bad choices.

Then Jesus started to pray. He was thankful for His disciples. These men and women had chosen to repent and follow Him, unlike the people in the unrepentant cities.

Ask a student to read verse 25. In other words, Jesus was saying, “Thank You, God, for hiding Your wisdom from people who think they are super smart. Instead, You reveal Your glory to people who come to You like a child.”

- *Ask:* How is coming to God like a child different from people who think they are smart or wise?

Truth for My Life: I will release my problems to God in prayer.

God doesn't want people to overthink His instructions. Trusting and obeying God takes simple faith. God's ways are not meant to be confusing or complicated. It's great if you understand Greek, Latin, or Hebrew, but you don't have to in order to believe and obey. That is how a child approaches things. *Ask a student to read verse 27.* When we come to God like a child, He will show us how to be saved. But this revelation is hidden from those who think they are super intelligent.

Hold up a tangled mess of Christmas lights. Have you ever tried to untangle Christmas lights? . . . When we overthink things or try to do things on our own, life becomes like this tangled mess.

Point out the bags you are wearing. Next, Jesus talked to people who were carrying heavy problems and worries. *Ask a student to read verse 28.* Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour (work hard) and are heavy laden (weighed down with problems and worries), and I will give you rest." Jesus wants to help us when we are weighed down, sad, mad, or don't know how we feel. *Plug in the string of neatly displayed lights.* The gospel of Jesus is not meant to be messy and tangled. It is pure and easy to understand.

Ask a student to read verse 29. Then Jesus said, "Take My yoke upon you." *Show the Yoked Oxen visual (RKDR).* A yoke is a piece of wood that connects the shoulders of two animals (cows or oxen) so they can work together. *Select two volunteers who are the same height; place the broomstick "yoke" on their shoulders, behind their neck, and have them hold it in place with both hands.* This yoke is not heavy. By connecting our volunteers together, they must walk in the same direction. *Have the volunteers walk with the yoke.* When two animals work together, they can pull a lot more weight than when they are working alone. Teamwork makes the dream work.



What did Jesus mean when He said, "Take My yoke upon you"? Jesus was telling us to team up with Him to make our heavy problems lighter. When Jesus is working with us, everything becomes easier and lighter. Jesus wants to help us get things done better and faster so we can rest.

- *Ask:* What are some things that trouble you?

When something in life troubles you or becomes heavy, you can pray about it and say, "Jesus, help me." When we team up with Jesus, sometimes He will send other people to help us and work together with us, similar to how the oxen in our picture are working together. Anything that is too heavy should be turned over to Jesus so He can help.

- *Ask:* Can you help me move these bags over to there? (*Point across the room.*)
» As you hand each helpful student a bag, tell each one thank you.

Oh, that feels so much better. Thank you so much. By working together, you helped me with my heavy things so they were easier and lighter. Jesus said when we bring our heavy things to Him, we will find rest.

Ask a student to read verse 30. Jesus said, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Working for God's kingdom and serving Him should not be hard. He will work with us. He will make our load lighter and bring us rest as we trust Him and walk with Him.

Review Questions

- Why does Jesus want us to have childlike faith?
- Why do you think God gave us the choice to accept His help?
- Describe what Jesus meant when He said, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
- Why is life easier when we accept help and rest from Jesus?
- How will you release your problems to Jesus?

APPLY AND ACT

Release Your Problems

Instruction

- Together as a class, say the TML: “I will release my problems to God in prayer.”
- Discuss how our bodies and minds hold tension, whether or not we realize it.
- *Say:* Close your mouth and quietly inhale through your nose while silently counting to four.
 - » *Say:* Hold your breath for a count of seven. Then slowly exhale through your mouth, making a whooshing sound while silently counting to eight.
- Repeat this breathing exercise three times.
- *Ask:* How did this breathing exercise affect your body and mind?
- *Say:* Breathing exercises can bring rest to your mind and body, but nothing matches the complete, perfect rest found in Jesus.
- *Ask:* How do we give our burdens to Jesus?
 - » Discuss how praying, reading the Bible, and worshiping can help us give our burdens to Jesus.
- Ask students to make a tight fist.
 - » *Say:* Imagine all of life’s problems are wrapped inside your fist.
 - » *Say:* Now hold your fist up to Jesus and repeat this prayer: “Jesus, I give You all my problems and cares.”
 - » *Say:* As you slowly open your fist, imagine releasing your problems to God.

Application: If we don’t find time to pray and read our Bibles, we may not realize how heavy life has become. Jesus wants us to come to Him for rest.

For additional Application Options that use different teaching styles, see page 27:

- Option 1: Let It Go
- Option 2: Make a List

Prayer and Response

Preparation

- For each student, write a personalized, encouraging note to take home, letting them know you will be praying for them. Be sure to sign your name. Prepare extra Notes for guests.

Instruction

- Spend time in worship and praise, allowing time for the peace of God to fill the classroom.
 - » Thank Jesus for His amazing love and care.
 - » Pray for families to have balance in their lives.
 - » Thank Jesus for giving us rest.
 - » Thank Him for wanting to take our cares and worries.
 - » Help students release their troubles to God.
- Give each student an encouraging note to take home.
- Send each student home with an Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page.

OPENING OPTION 1

Help or No Help

Preparation

- For each team, place a bowling ball in a backpack that can be dragged.
- Tape off lines at opposite ends of an open area.

Instruction

- Have a relay where students drag their team's backpack to the opposite end of the room and back.
 - » For safety, the bag should be dragged, not picked up.
- On their turn, students must decide whether to ask for help.
 - » Students who ask for help can choose another student to help drag the backpack, which should make the task much easier.
 - » Students who decide to do it alone must finish the task without help.

Application: Jesus offers to help us when life is hard, but we must remember to ask Him. Sometimes we don't ask and try to go through things on our own. Jesus steps in as soon as we call on His name.

OPENING OPTION 2

My Hands?

Instruction

- Place two chairs, one behind the other.
- Without giving time to prepare, ask two students to work together.
- One student sits in front with hands immobilized behind his or her back.
- The second student sits behind the first student to act as the first student's arms for the following:
 - » My nose feels itchy.
 - » My hair needs combed.
 - » I feel like clapping.
 - » I want to eat some delicious pudding.
 - » There's a mosquito on my cheek.
 - » I am so tired.
- Compare this example to the difficulty of responding to problems when we feel disconnected.
- Ask: Why is it important to stay connected to Jesus?

Application: Jesus knows exactly what we need, how we feel, and how we should respond. He is waiting for us to ask Him for help. Jesus offers help and rest when life is hard and we are weary.

APPLICATION OPTION 1

Let It Go

Instruction

- Give each student a bottle of bubbles.
- Say: Think of any cares you have. What is causing you to feel worried, fearful, or concerned?
- Say: As you blow each bubble, send your problems up to Jesus as a prayer.
 - » *Demonstrate:* "God, please help me to get along with my brother."
- Say: Instead of worrying, pray about the problem, and then "let it go," like blowing bubbles.

Application: Jesus offers help and rest when life is hard and we are weary. We release our problems to Him when we pray. In return, God helps carry the problems, allowing a gentle peace to replace our worries.

APPLICATION OPTION 2

Make a List

Instruction

- Give each student paper and a pen.
 - » Encourage students to spread out in the room, finding a place away from other students.
- Discuss how our minds can be weighed down and clouded with our concerns.
- Encourage students to write down their thoughts. Let them know they will not be asked to share.
 - » Say: You may be concerned about undone chores or homework, tomorrow's lunch plans, a sick family member, problems with friends, or a missing pet. If it is on your mind, it is also on God's heart. He cares about all your concerns.
- Once students have "emptied their minds onto the paper," ask them to take these concerns to Jesus by praying. Take a few moments to pray together, encouraging students to speak to Jesus about how the listed items make them feel.
- After prayer, have students review their list and truthfully acknowledge that they have let Jesus know their concerns.

Application: Jesus loves to hear us talk to Him about our thoughts and concerns. He wants to help us and give us rest, but we must turn to Him.

Truth about God: Jesus offers help and rest when life is hard and we are weary.

WORSHIP

Supplies: Small spiral notebooks (1 per student), pens, Video Quick Links document **DR**

Instruction

- Have students sit and rest in a quiet, calm setting with the lights dimmed. Give each student a notebook and pen to write their thoughts or doodle. Challenge students to identify words in the songs that resonate with their feelings.
 - » “When I Pray” by David and Stephanie Hutton **QL**
 - » “Just Want You” by Brittani Scott **QL**
 - » “Why Should I Worry” by Draylin Young **QL**
 - » “Not Worried” by The Pentecostals of Katy & Savannah McKee **QL**
 - » “I Can Go to God in Prayer” by Texas Bible College **QL**

Application: True rest comes from Jesus, but we must allow Him to share it with us.

SNACK OPTION

Egg Sandwiches

Supplies: English muffins; toaster; butter; fried or scrambled eggs; cheese slices; sliced ham, bacon, or turkey; aluminum foil; cookie sheet or tray; dish towel; paper plates; napkins; fruit juice or water; cups

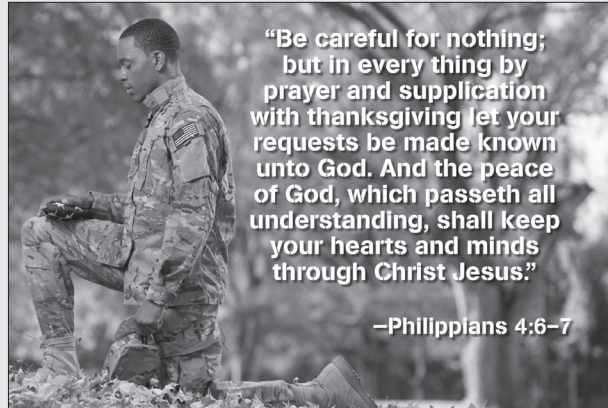
Preparation

- Toast English muffins and spread butter on them.
- Add fried or scrambled eggs, cheese, and meat (optional) to make sandwiches.
- To keep the sandwiches warm, wrap in foil, place on a cookie sheet or tray, and cover with a dish towel.

Instruction

- Ask a student to give thanks for the food.
- Express thanks to the Lord for teaching us we can release our problems to Him. His burden is light, and His yoke (yolk) is easy.
- Enjoy the sandwiches with fruit juice or water.

Application: Jesus provides peace and rest for us. His yoke is easy.



MEMORY WORK

Series 1 Memory Verses: Philippians 4:6-7

Supplies: 3 baskets, Series 1 MW Eggs **DR**, sticky tack, trash can, Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**

Preparation

- For each team, print, cut apart, and shuffle a set of Series 1 MW Eggs **DR**. There should be a set of red eggs, green eggs, and blue eggs.
 - » Place each team's set of eggs in a separate basket.
- Attach the Series 1 MW poster **RKDR** to a wall at students' eye level.
 - » Near the poster, place sticky tack and a clean, empty trash can.
 - » A teacher will need to stand by the poster to make sure students place the eggs correctly.

Instruction

- Review the Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**—Philippians 4:6-7.
- Form three teams.
 - » Line them up opposite the poster, and place a basket of eggs near each team.
- **Ask:** How do the eggs relate to the lesson? . . . “His yoke (yolk) is easy.” *Groan!*
- On “go,” one student from each team pulls an egg from the team's basket, runs to the poster, and uses sticky tack to attach it to cover the matching word on the poster.
 - » If a word is already covered by another team's egg, the student must toss his or her egg into the trash.
- Then the student runs back to tag the next student in line.
- The team with the most eggs on the poster at the end wins.
- Give students a few moments to rest before reciting the verses together.

Application: When we pray, we should release our problems to Jesus and surrender to Him. His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

GAME OPTION

A Little Help

Instruction

- Have students line up a few feet away from a wall they can lean on.
- Ask: How long can you stand on one leg?
 - » First, challenge students to stand on one leg with no help.
 - » Give them a few chances to increase their time.
- Say: Jesus said if we ask Him for help, He will give us rest. Let's pretend this wall is Jesus. By using the wall as support, let's see if you can stand for longer.
 - » Again, challenge students to stand on one leg, but this time let them stand closer to the wall and have a hand touching the wall. The task should become much easier.

Application: Jesus said if we take up His yoke and let Him work with us, He will help us and give us rest. When life is hard, we must remember to release our problems to God in prayer. He will give us rest.

OBJECT LESSON OPTION

Give It to God

Supplies: Mentos candies, two-liter bottle of Diet Coke, paper towels; **optional:** plastic container to catch Coke

Preparation

- This experiment is best done outside.
- For instructions on the object lesson, see "Diet Coke Mentos Experiment" by Taming Little Monsters [QL](#).

Instruction

- Eat a Mentos candy.
 - » Say: Our problems are like Mentos. Our first reaction is to try to work on our problems ourselves.
 - » Say: A better way is to give our problems to God so change can occur.
- Place the Diet Coke on a flat surface (or in a plastic container) and remove the lid.
 - » Drop several Mentos inside and step back quickly to watch an explosion occur.

Application: Keeping our problems to ourselves will not work. We must give them to God so He can take care of them.

CRAFT OPTION

Bubble Art

Supplies: Painting drop cloth, plastic tablecloths, or newspaper and masking tape; bubble solution; food coloring; bubble wands; white cardstock (1 sheet per student); painters' tape; small cups or containers; spoon; wet wipes or paper towels for cleanup

Preparation

- Warning! This activity gets messy. Consider doing it outside. Otherwise, be sure to cover tables and floors with drop cloths, plastic tablecloths, or newspaper.
- In small cups or containers, pour a small amount of bubble solution.
 - » Add food coloring and stir.

Instruction

- Give each student a sheet of white cardstock.
- Help students use painters' tape to make a simple design on their papers that will remind them of the Bible lesson. Some ideas include: P for prayer, R for rest, or a cross to represent Jesus.
- Then blow colored bubbles over the tape designs, allowing the bubbles to pop all over the paper.
- After the bubbles dry, remove the painter's tape to reveal a white design surrounded with colorful bubble shapes.

Application: Bubbles can be a reminder of releasing our problems to God in prayer.

JBQ OPTION

Preparation

- Select one of the JBQ Games [DR](#). Some games require additional props.
- Locate the JBQ Quiz(zes) [DR](#) that correspond with the current set(s) of verses being studied.

Instruction

- Distribute the current set of JBQ Verses [DR](#) to new students.
- Play the prepared game with students.
- If students have mastered the verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses [DR](#). Otherwise let them study the same set of verses again for next week.



1.4

SERIES 1: JESUS TEACHES HOW TO PRAY

SUBMISSIVE PRAYER

John 17

SERIES AIM

To study examples from Jesus' prayers for guidance on how to pray.

SERIES MEMORY VERSES

Philippians 4:6-7

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

BIBLE LESSON VERSE

John 17:9

"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine."



TRUTH ABOUT GOD

Jesus prayed for the church.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will pray for members of my church.

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read John 17. Prayerfully consider what this passage says:

ABOUT GOD

As Jesus thought about what was to come on the cross, He prepared His followers. Once He was gone, He knew His disciples would face the ultimate test of their faith, so He prayed for their protection and for unity. He prayed for truth and God's love to be in them. Jesus prepared for the suffering He was about to endure by praying for others.

TO YOU AS A TEACHER

As Jesus prayed for His disciples, He also prayed for "them also which shall believe on me through their word" (John 17:20). That's the church. That's you. As you read Jesus' heartfelt prayer in John 17, recognize the love He expressed toward you personally—promises of protection, unity, and the power to be a great witness. God is with you. Expect great things out of your ministry.

TO YOUR STUDENTS

The church should be like a second family to your students. This is a great lesson to nurture closer relationships between students, especially drawing attention to students who may be getting overlooked or ignored. Sometimes preteens become competitive, critical, and judgmental of each other. Zap the conflict with the love of Jesus. Show students how Jesus prayed for unity. Encourage students to work together, helping each other and demonstrating the love of God.

SUPPLIES

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

- Candy or cookies
- Attendance poster **RKDR**, stickers, Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**

Video Introduction

- “We Are Family Song” **QL**
- “I Love My Church” **QL**

Opener

- “Pictures of Pentecostal Churches” on Bing **QL** or Pictures of Churches **DR**, picture of your church

Opening Option 1

- Secret message (envelope, white crayon, white paper), markers
- *Per student:* White crayon, white paper

Opening Option 2

- *Per small group:* Smartphone with internet access, paper, pencil

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Lesson Lead-In

- No supplies necessary

Bible Lesson

- Letter Strip and Word Cards **RKDR**, tape or sticky tack, Bibles

APPLY AND ACT

- Pictures of your church’s ministry leaders and church members, Letter Strip and Word Cards **RKDR** from Bible Lesson

Application Option 1

- 20 pictures of church members

Application Option 2

- *Per student:* Paper, crayons or markers

- Whiteboard and marker

Prayer and Response

- *Per student:* Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

Instruction

- As students enter, record attendance and collect offering.
- Greet each student with the term *brother* or *sister*: “God bless you, Brother/Sister (*name*). Welcome to the church family.”
 - » Surprise students with a sweet treat as you say, “Psalm 34:8 says, ‘Taste and see that the LORD is good.’”
 - » For the remainder of class, call students by Brother/Sister as you call their names.
- Review the Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**—Philippians 4:6–7.
- Introduce the TAG: “Jesus prayed for the church.”

Application: Today we will learn how the church is like a big family, which is why we call each other brother and sister. Jesus is happy when we pray for the church and our church family.

Video Introduction

- When it is time to get students’ attention, consider showing a video introducing the idea of family. Be prepared to transition to a discussion about your church family
 - » “We Are Family Song” by ELF Kids Videos **QL**
 - » “I Love My Church” by Rodney Hickey **QL**

Opener: What (or Who) Is the Church?

Preparation

- For this activity, look up “Pictures of Pentecostal churches” on a search engine like Bing **QL** or Google, or plan on showing the pictures of churches **DR** provided digitally in the resource kit.
- In addition, prepare to show a picture of your church.

Instruction

- *Ask:* What is a church? *A group of people who gather to worship God*
 - » Show the pictures of church buildings. Encourage students to discuss the differences they see.
 - » *Say:* Church buildings come in all shapes and sizes. Some are old; some are new. Some are big; some are small. Some churches are made of stone; others are made of wood, glass, or all sorts of things. Churches can be found in cities, in the country, and on islands. Churches can be built anywhere. Some churches even meet in hotels or schools.

- *Ask:* What makes this room a Sunday school? *The students*
 - » Before you arrived, this was just a room, but once you showed up, you turned this into a Sunday school.
- *Ask:* What makes a church a church? *The people who worship there*
 - » *Say:* Without people, a church is just a building.
- Show the picture of your church.
 - » Make sure students know the name of your church and the name of your pastor.

Application: Although God's people often gather and worship inside a church building, the building itself is not the church. When Jesus prayed for the church, He was praying for the people who would follow Him, not the buildings.

For additional Opening Options that use different teaching styles, see page 35:

- Option 1: Secret Message Revealed
- Option 2: Timeless Prayer

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Bible Lesson Verse

"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine" (John 17:9).

Lesson Lead-In

Instruction

- *Ask:* Have you completed a team project at school or with friends?
 - » *Ask:* How important was it to work together?
 - » *Ask:* What did you accomplish because you worked together?
- *Ask:* Have you ever tried to work as a team, but it didn't go so well? Was it your fault or someone else's fault?

Application: Jesus wants His people to work together. In the Bible lesson, we will learn that Jesus prayed for His church. He prayed for His disciples to work together. In His prayer, Jesus looked into the future and prayed for us to work together too.

Bible Lesson: Submissive Prayer (John 17)

Preparation

- Cut apart the Letter Strip and Word Cards **RKDR**.
 - » Mount the Letter Strip vertically to a wall in the teaching area.
 - » Have sticky tack or tape ready to add the Word Cards as you teach.

Instruction

- Have students look up John 17 in their Bibles.
- Distribute the Word Cards to eleven students.

Jesus knew what was about to happen to Him. Soon He would be crucified, brought back to life, and then He would ascend into Heaven. His followers needed to be ready for all these events. In John 16, Jesus gathered His disciples to talk about the kingdom of God. As His disciples sat with Him, Jesus turned His eyes toward Heaven to pray. By hearing Jesus pray, we can learn how He wants us to pray for the church.

Point to the first letter on the letter strip—A. Who has the word card starting with the letter A? The student with ASSIGNMENT should come forward to post the word by the letter.

ASSIGNMENT

A

Truth for My Life: I will pray for members of my church.

Ask a student to read John 17:4. Jesus started by thanking God for the assignment God had given Him. Jesus was the Messiah, and He would suffer and die for the sins of the people so they could spend eternity in Heaven with Him. We all have a job to do, and we too can thank God for our assignments.

Point to the letter strip. Who has the T word card? *Post TRUTH. Student reads verse 8.* Jesus was thankful the truth of God had been revealed to His followers. After His resurrection and ascension, His followers would teach God's truth to others around the world. Down through the years, God's truth has been taught to generations of people until it has reached all of us. Jesus wanted all people to know about Him.

Who has the P and the U word cards? *Post PROTECTION and UNITY. Student reads verse 11.* Jesus knew God would protect the church by the power of His name.

- *Ask:* What does *unity* mean?

Unity means harmony or agreement. Jesus wants us to join together, agree with one another, and work together for God's kingdom. He has much work for us to do. He wants us to be united as a family, being good friends and working together as a team.

Who has the H word card? *Post HAPPY. Student reads verse 13.* At the time of Jesus' prayer, the disciples didn't realize He was about to be crucified. He tried to prepare them. He wanted them to be happy whenever they thought about His sacrifice. Jesus wants us to be happy when we think about Him. When we receive His Holy Spirit, we feel the happiness, power, and joy of His resurrection.

Who has the E word card? *Post EVIL. Student reads verse 15.* Jesus repeated His request for His disciples to be protected from evil. Jesus wants to keep us safe from the devil's tricks.

Who has the R and F word cards? *Post READ and FOLLOW. Student reads verse 17.* Jesus prayed for His disciples to read and follow God's Word. Jesus knew knowledge of God's Word would be the secret to their success.

Who has the C word card? *Post CHURCH. Student reads verse 20.* Jesus prayed for the future church—every church member who would live in the years after Jesus ascended into Heaven, which includes us.

Who has the O word card? *Post ONE. Student reads verse 21.* Unity was and is very important to Jesus. In verse 21, He repeated His desire for His people to be united.

Who has the L word card? *Post LOVE. Student reads verses 25–26.* As Jesus finished His prayer, He prayed His church would be filled with God's love. God is love. He wants His followers to love each other and to show His love to others. Love is the most important quality in God's church.

Through Jesus' prayer, He showed His followers what to pray. *Point to the completed set of words.* By His example, we should pray for the people in our church family. This is how we will be equipped and ready to live for Jesus.

Review Questions

- Why did Jesus pray for His disciples and for the future church?
- Why did Jesus pray we would follow the instructions in the Bible?
- Why is unity important to Jesus?
- What is the most important quality the church should have? *Love*
- How should we respond to the prayer of Jesus?

APPLY AND ACT

Praying for Our Family

Pictures of ministry leaders and church members will be used again in the Heritage Sunday lesson.

Preparation

- Gather pictures of ministry leaders and members of your church. (Keep these pictures to use again for the Heritage Sunday lesson.)
 - » If your church has a church directory, print pictures from the directory. Facebook profiles can also provide pictures to print. Be sure to include your students' families. Each student will need a picture.

Instruction

- As a class, say the TML: "I will pray for members of my church."
- *Ask:* Who is our church family?
 - » Show the pictures and introduce the people.
- Give a picture to each student. Be sure students know the name of the person in their picture.
 - » *Say:* We are going to make Jesus happy by praying for the people in our church family.
- Using the Letter Strip and Word Cards from the Bible Lesson as a guide, help students pray for the person in their picture.
 - » Start by thanking God for your job or assignment, for that person's role in the church, and for the truth of the Bible.
 - » Then pray for that person's protection, unity, joy, and protection from evil.
 - » Pray for that person to read God's Word and follow it.
 - » Finish by praying for church growth and for increasing love within the church.
 - » *Say:* In Jesus' name, amen.

Application: When we pray for our church family, it makes God happy. We should pray for our friends and church family, not just during our class today, but every day. Prayer helps our church become stronger. Prayer fills us with the love of Jesus and helps us tell others about Him.

For additional Application Options that use different teaching styles, see page 35:

- Option 1: Who's Who?
- Option 2: Fulfill the Instructions of Jesus

Prayer and Response

Instruction

- Let students pray together in small groups.
 - » Ask students to share prayer requests, so they can pray for one another.
- Lead students in prayer.
 - » Thank Jesus for His example of how to pray for the church.
 - » Praise God for His continued help and guidance.
 - » Thank God for hearing your prayers. Thank Him in advance for blessing your friends and family.
 - » Pray to love the church like God loves it.
- Encourage students to put the lesson into practice by praying for members of the church during their daily prayer time.
- Send each student home with an Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page.

Truth for My Life: I will pray for members of my church.

OPENING OPTION 1

Secret Message Revealed

Preparation

- Create a secret message by using a white crayon on white paper to write: "Dear Church, I love you and I am praying for you. Love, Jesus."
 - » Put the note in an envelope and place it somewhere in the classroom.

Instruction

- Instruct students to look for an envelope containing a secret message.
- Once students find the envelope, open it to discover what looks like a blank sheet of paper.
- Students can discover the secret message by coloring over the writing with marker.
- Read the message together.
 - » Say: In the message, Jesus said He was praying for us.
- Ask: What are some prayers you think Jesus might pray for the church?
- Give each student a sheet of white paper and a white crayon to respond with a secret message asking Jesus for something special.

Application: In today's lesson, we will learn some things Jesus prayed for the church.

OPENING OPTION 2

Timeless Prayer

Instruction

- Form small groups of two to four students.
 - » Each group will need paper, a pencil, and a smartphone with internet access.
 - » Ask each group to pick a number between fifty and two thousand and write it down on their paper.
 - » Ask each group to pick a country or region and then a city in that area.
- Explain that the number each group picked is the year they will think about (e.g., 1765 = AD 1765). The country and city they picked is the geographical location they will think about.
- Give groups a few minutes to discuss each question before you ask the next.
 - » Ask: What do you think life was like in this city at that time?
 - » Ask: What do you think the church looked like in this city at that time?
 - » Ask: When Jesus prayed for the church, do you think He prayed for the people in this city? How do you think Jesus felt about the people in this city?
- Let groups present their answers.

Application: When Jesus prayed for His disciples, He also prayed for all people around the world who would become members of His church in the future.

APPLICATION OPTION 1

Who's Who?

Preparation

- Gather pictures of twenty church members.

Instruction

- Lay out the pictures.
- Say: Pay close attention. I am going to tell you the names of each of these people.
 - » Go down the lineup of pictures and tell students the names.
- Then display only four pictures.
 - » Select a student and ask: Which one of these pictures is Brother/Sister (name)?
 - » Continue choosing students and changing pictures.
- Display all the pictures again.
- Say: These people are part of our church family. Let's pray for them.
- Have students hold up the pictures. Lead students in a prayer for the people.

Application: Just like Jesus prayed for the church, He is happy when we pray for our church family.

APPLICATION OPTION 2

Fulfill the Instructions of Jesus

Instruction

- On the board, write: UNITY—the quality or state of being one, in full agreement, harmony.
- Say: When Jesus prayed for His church, He mentioned *unity* several times. When God's people work in unity, the peace of God surrounds them.
- Ask: What is the opposite of *unity*? *Discord, confusion, and so on*
- Give each student paper and crayons or markers.
 - » On one side, students draw using shapes and colors that represent *unity*.
 - » On the other side, students draw using contrasting shapes and colors that depict the opposite of unity.
- Ask: In God's church, why is unity important?

Application: When we work in unity, pray for each other, and follow the instructions of Jesus, more people will want to be part of God's church.

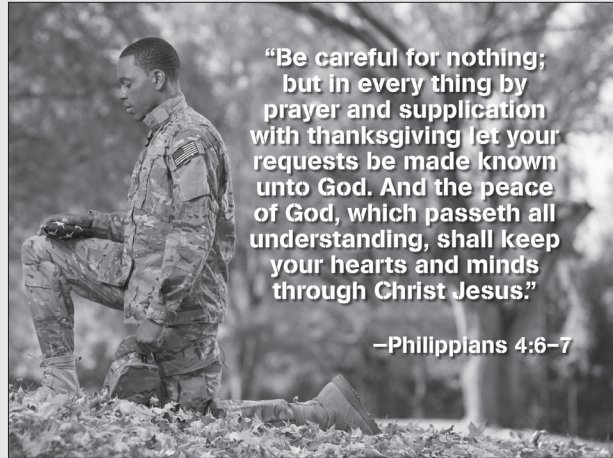
WORSHIP

Supplies: Video Quick Links document **DR**

Instruction

- As you play “When We Pray” by Tauren Wells **QL**, challenge students to picture the faces of people in your church, including their own family members.
 - » Say: Think about how much change will occur if we just keep praying.
- “When I Pray” by David and Stephanie Hutton **QL**
- “When I Say Thank You” by PPH Kids Music **QL**
- “Friend Like You” by PPH Kids Music **QL**
- “Miracles” by IBC Live **QL**
- “I Speak Jesus” by Charity Gayle **QL**

Application: Jesus loves to hear the worship and prayers of His church.



MEMORY WORK

Series 1 Memory Verses: Philippians 4:6–7

Supplies: Wood blocks or LEGO bricks, Series 1 MW Words **DR**, Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**

Instruction

- Review the Series 1 MW poster **RKDR**—Philippians 4:6–7.
- Challenge students to build a church building while reciting the verses.
 - » One student chooses a block, says one word of the memory passage, and begins building.
 - » The next student chooses a block, says the next word, and adds the block to the building.
- Continue reciting the passage until the building is complete.

Application: When church members pray together and for each other, God builds the church.

WORSHIP OPTION

Supplies: Whiteboard and marker, Bibles

Preparation

- On the board, write the following Bible references: Matthew 21:9; Psalm 103:1; Luke 2:14; Psalm 105:45; Revelation 4:11.

Instruction

- Discuss the importance of corporate worship in God’s church.
- As a class, look up each Bible verse, read it together, and determine the verse’s “praise phrase.” Write it on the board next to the reference.
- Praise Phrases:
 - » Matthew 21:9—“Hosanna.”
 - » Psalm 103:1—“Bless the Lord.”
 - » Luke 2:14—“Glory to God.”
 - » Psalm 105:45—“Praise the Lord.”
 - » Revelation 4:11—“You are worthy.”

Application: Jesus loves to hear the worship and prayers of His church.

VIDEO REVIEW

- To let students hear Jesus’ prayer from the Bible, consider playing one of these videos as students work on something else:
 - » “John 17 | The Real Lord’s Prayer | The Life of Jesus” by Jesus.net **QL**
 - » “The Holy Bible-John Chapter 17 (KJV)” by KJV Audio Bible **QL**
 - » “John 17-NKJV (Audio Bible & Text)” by 23:59 Time Is Up **QL**
 - » “ESV Audio Bible, Gospel of John, Chapter 17” by Crossway **QL**
 - » “David Suchet NIV Bible 1014 John 17” by Hear God’s Word **QL**

Truth for My Life: I will pray for members of my church.



SNACK OPTION

Popcorn Prayer Snack

Supplies: Popcorn, bowls, napkins, grape juice or water, cups

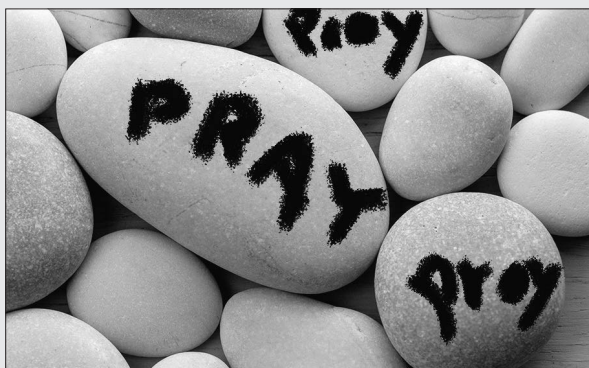
Preparation

- Prepare to serve popcorn.

Instruction

- *Ask:* Have you ever watched popcorn pop? How would you describe it?
- Give each student a bowl of popcorn and a drink.
- Before eating, choose a student to thank Jesus for praying for the church—including us.

Application: Prayer can be a lot like popping popcorn. At first it may not feel like much is happening, but when things heat up, our prayers can really start popping. When we feel God's presence, we know He is working for us and great things are about to happen.



CRAFT OPTION

Prayer Rocks

Supplies: Smooth stones, permanent markers, hairspray

Preparation

- For each student, procure a smooth stone.

Instruction

- On the stones, students use permanent markers to write: PRAY.
 - » Then students decorate their stones.
- Once finished, help students spray the stones with a hairspray varnish.
- Encourage students to place their stones on their bed pillows after making their beds in the morning.
 - » When students go to bed, the stones will remind them to pray.
 - » *Ask:* Should your prayers include praying for church members? . . . Yes.

Application: Every day, Jesus wants us to pray for our own needs and for the needs of the members of our church.

GAME OPTION

Popcorn Prayers

Instruction

- Have students sit in a circle.
- Ask students to think of church members.
- *Say:* When I say, "Start popping," one of you should pop up and pray for the church member who is on your mind right now. After the first student sits down, another student should pop up and pray for another church member. We will continue until everyone has an opportunity to pop up and pray for someone.
- End the game by asking Jesus to bless all the members named and cover them with His love and protection.

Application: Jesus wants us to pray for the members of our church.

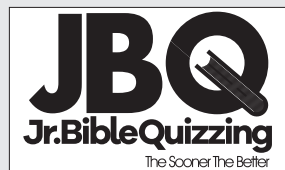
JBQ OPTION

Preparation

- Select one of the JBQ Games **DR**. Some games require additional props.
- Locate the JBQ Quiz(zes) **DR** that correspond with the current set(s) of verses being studied.

Instruction

- Distribute the current set of JBQ Verses **DR** to new students.
- Play the prepared game with students.
- If students have mastered the verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses **DR**. Otherwise let them study the same set of verses again for next week.



HS

OUR HERITAGE

Acts 2

SPECIAL MEMORY VERSES

Acts 2:38–39

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

BIBLE LESSON VERSE

Ephesians 2:20

“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.”



TRUTH ABOUT GOD
God's church was and is alive and growing.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE
I will do my part to continue building God's church.

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read Acts 2. Prayerfully consider what this passage says:

ABOUT GOD

On the Day of Pentecost, after the Holy Ghost was poured out, the number of born-again believers exploded to over 3,120. Good news travels fast. As those people told their friends, and those friends told their friends, word traveled far and wide. Since that day, the church has continued to grow and spread throughout the world.

TO YOU AS A TEACHER

The United Pentecostal Church International (UPCI) motto is: “The whole gospel to the whole world by the whole church.” No one person can take the whole gospel to the whole world. It takes all of us—the teacher of Late Elementary to the well-known evangelist preaching at General Conference. You and your ministry are important in the kingdom of God. Thank you for doing your best in ministering to these children who are precious in God's eyes.

TO YOUR STUDENTS

Many children find history boring or unrelatable. In this lesson, make the history of your church—Jesus' church—come alive to your students by relating it to family. Share exciting moments in your church's history. Share testimonies of God's faithfulness to your church in the past and present. Lasting memories are made around family. Once students realize they have a church family, they will realize even more memories are in the making.

SUPPLIES

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

- *Optional:* Antique Bibles, vintage gospel tracts and hymnals, vintage household items or collectibles
- Attendance poster **RKDR**, stickers, New Birth poster **RKDR**

Video Introduction

- UPCI Global Missions deputation video **QL**

Opener

- G. T. Haywood visual **RKDR**, “Haywood Museum” **QL**, “I See a Crimson Stream of Blood” **QL**
- Whiteboard and marker

Opening Option 1

- Special guest (an elder)
- Pictures of church members and ministry leaders from lesson 1.4

Opening Option 2

- Pictures and information about the history of your church

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Lesson Lead-In

- Eternal Flame picture **RKDR**
- “Eternal Flame Falls: A Western NY Waterfall Unlike Any Other” **QL**
- “Eternal Flame Falls at Chestnut Ridge County Park” **QL**

Bible Lesson

- *Per student:* Battery-operated candle, Bible
- Rushing Wind sound effect **DR**; New Birth poster **RKDR**; Topeka Revival, Welsh Revival, and Azusa Street visuals **RKDR**

APPLY AND ACT

- Gift-wrapped box, New Birth poster **RKDR**

Application Option 1

- Your church information (attendance records and number of seats in sanctuary), whiteboard and markers

Application Option 2

- No supplies necessary

Prayer and Response

- *Per student:* Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

Preparation

- *Optional:* Consider creating a display of antique Bibles and vintage gospel tracts and hymnals, along with a few vintage household items or collectibles.

Instruction

- As students enter, collect offering and record attendance.
- As in lesson 1.4, continue to greet each student with the term *brother* or *sister*: “Hello, Brother/Sister (*name*). Welcome to the church family.”
- Use the New Birth poster **RKDR** to introduce Acts 2:38–39.
- If you have created a display of antique items, encourage students to examine the display and discuss the importance of protecting historical items.
- Introduce the TAG: “Jesus’ church was and is alive and growing.”

Application: Just as each of our families has a history, Jesus’ church family also has a history. We have a spiritual heritage built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. God’s church is not stuck in ancient history. Rather, God’s church continues to be fresh, vibrant, alive, and growing. We have the great privilege to be members of God’s church family.

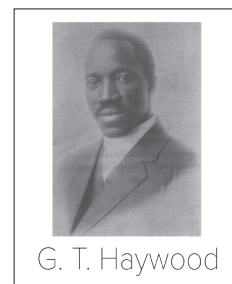
Video Introduction

- When it is time to get students’ attention, play a deputation video **QL** of a missionary from UPCI Global Missions.
 - » As the video plays, discuss how Jesus’ church is alive and growing around the world.

Opener: Our Spiritual Heritage

Instruction

- On the board, write: HERITAGE—things or characteristics passed down from past generations.
- Show the G. T. Haywood visual **RKDR** along with the video “Haywood Museum” by Apostolic Archives International **QL**.
 - » Discuss Dr. Gary Garrett’s fascination with the historical items related to G. T. Haywood.
- Read the information about G. T. Haywood on the back of the visual **RKDR**.
- Play the song “I See a Crimson Stream of Blood,” written by G. T. Haywood and performed by the PAW Mass Choir **QL**.



Truth about God: God's church was and is alive and growing.

- » Discuss the similarities and differences from the songs we hear at home, on the radio, or at church.

Application: Our spiritual heritage is important. God's church has been alive and growing for nearly two thousand years now. We are privileged to be a part of a church that continues to grow.

For additional Opening Options that use different teaching styles, see page 43:

- Option 1: A Voice from the Past
- Option 2: Our Church History

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Bible Lesson Verse

"And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephesians 2:20).

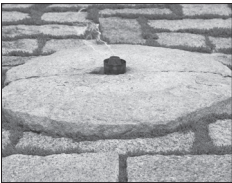
Lesson Lead-In

Preparation

- Cut apart the visuals for the Lesson Lead-In and Bible Lesson.

Instruction

- Show the Eternal Flame visual [RKDR](#).
 - » Say: This memorial, called the Eternal Flame in Arlington National Cemetery, was constructed in remembrance of United States President John F. Kennedy. The concept behind an eternal flame is that the fire will stay burning indefinitely. The flames are engineered to withstand all types of weather, including rain, snow, and high wind.
- To further discuss eternal flames, choose one:
 - » Show the video "Eternal Flame Falls: A Western NY Waterfall Unlike Any Other" by News 8 WROC [QL](#).
 - » Read the article "Eternal Flame Falls at Chestnut Ridge County Park" by Atlas Obscura [QL](#).



Application: In today's lesson, we will compare God's church to an eternal flame. God's church began in Acts 2 and continues to shine its light today.

Bible Lesson: Our Heritage (Acts 2)

Instruction

- Ask students to look up Acts 2.
- Give each student a battery-operated candle. The candles should be turned off at the beginning of the story.

In Acts 1, before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He told His followers to go back to Jerusalem, wait there, and pray until they received the promise of the Holy Ghost. In Acts 2, we read about 120 people who followed Jesus' instruction by gathering in an upper room of a house in Jerusalem. For over a week, the people prayed in that upper room to receive the Holy Ghost.

Meanwhile, a holiday called the Day of Pentecost was approaching. Jews from around the world traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate. On Sunday morning, the Day of Pentecost, something felt different as the 120 followers gathered in that upper room to pray. As they started to pray, they heard something. *Play the Rushing Wind sound effect DR*. The sound of a rushing, mighty wind filled the house. Then they saw what looked like tiny flames of fire sitting over each person's head. *Have students turn on the battery-operated candles and hold them over their heads.*

Truth for My Life: I will do my part to continue building God's church.

What do you think their praises sounded like? *Let students simultaneously praise the name of Jesus.* As they shouted praises, they lost control of what they were saying. Their hearts were praising God, but their mouths were speaking words they had never learned, but they didn't care. They just wanted to worship Jesus. *Let students continue praising and calling out the name of Jesus.* Everyone in the room began speaking in other languages as the Holy Ghost spoke through them.

As 120 people praised God at the top of their lungs, it was so loud the people out on the street could hear it. Remember the holiday? Because it was the Day of Pentecost, people from around the world packed the street outside. The people asked, "What are you doing in there? We hear you praising God in many different languages, but it also sounds like you're having a party. Are you drunk?"

Filled with the Holy Ghost, Peter stood up and said, "It is only nine o'clock in the morning. We are not drunk. We have been filled with the Holy Ghost." Then Peter preached about the promise of the Holy Ghost. As the people listened, their hearts grew sad. Had they missed their opportunity to follow Jesus? They asked, "What can we do to be saved?" *Students repeat.*

Ask a student to read Peter's response in Acts 2:38-39. That day the church was born. Over three thousand people were baptized in Jesus' name and received the Holy Ghost with the miraculous sign of speaking in tongues. A few days later, as the disciples continued to minister, that number grew to over five thousand (Acts 4:4). The revival didn't stop there. Through many signs and wonders, the church spread throughout the region. At first the Roman government tried to stop the church, but after three centuries of persecution, Rome eventually chose Christianity as its official religion. From there, revival spread around the world.

Fast-forward to the turn of the twentieth century. Most churches had stopped teaching about God wanting to fill people with the Holy Ghost. Still people who loved God were praying and studying their Bibles. *Show the Topeka Revival, Welsh Revival, and Azusa Street visuals **RKDR**.* In 1900, one group in Topeka, Kansas, gathered to study Peter's message in Acts 2. In 1904, another group did the same in the country of Wales. In both cases, as they prayed to receive what Peter had talked about, they were filled with the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues.

From 1906-1909, God mightily poured out His Spirit, filling tens of thousands with the Holy Ghost over three years of revival at Azusa Street in Los Angeles, California. From that revival, the Pentecostal message flooded across North America and around the world.

Point to the candles. At times the light seemed to be hidden, but the light never went out. Our church is part of the church that started nearly two thousand years ago. We can experience the same life-changing power as the people in the Book of Acts. God's church is alive and growing daily. God's Spirit is the true eternal flame that will never be extinguished.

Review Questions

- What do eternal flames represent?
- How is God's presence like an eternal flame?
- Where can we find the foundation of our church? *In Acts 2*
- Why should we help others find the light of God's Holy Spirit?



APPLY AND ACT

Sharing Our Heritage

Instruction

- As a class, say the TML: "I will do my part to continue building God's church."
- *Say:* Today the church continues to grow as God continues to pour out His Spirit on anyone who has faith in Jesus and follows Peter's instructions.
- Show the New Birth poster **RKDR**.
 - » Review what Peter said about salvation.
 - » *Say:* Jesus wants everyone to be in His church family. This poster shows God's plan for us to be part of His family. Let's thank God for the opportunity to be part of His church.
- Show the gift-wrapped box.
 - » *Say:* When gifts are shared, they bring joy and help us express our love. In Jesus, we have been given a precious gift that needs to be shared.
- *Ask:* Why should we share God's gift—our heritage—with other people?

Application: We build God's church by sharing our faith with those around us. We each need to do our part to continue to build God's church.

For additional Application Options that use different teaching styles, see page 43:

- Option 1: A Growing Church
- Option 2: What Are You Building?

Prayer and Response

Instruction

- Pray together, asking God for strength and wisdom to make wise choices that allow His light to shine through us.
 - » Thank the Lord for allowing His promise to reach us today.
 - » Pray for students to appreciate their apostolic heritage.
 - » Pray for students to be filled with God's Holy Spirit or to renew their experience with Him.
 - » Thank the Lord for the power we receive when we are filled with His Spirit.
 - » Pray for church members and students to continue doing their part to build God's church.
- Send each student home with an Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page.

Truth for My Life: I will do my part to continue building God's church.

OPENING OPTION 1

A Voice from the Past

Preparation

- Arrange for an elder to join your class as a special guest.
- Gather pictures of church members and ministry leaders (from lesson 1.4).

Instruction

- *Show the pictures and ask:* Do you remember who is in our church family?
 - » See how many people your students can remember or recognize.
- *Say:* Last week we prayed for the people in our church family.
- Introduce students to your special guest and gather for a special testimony time. Let the elder share a memory about church from his or her childhood.

Application: Elders are part of our church heritage. They were once children just like you, and we can learn from them. They can teach us how Jesus' church was and is alive and growing.

OPENING OPTION 2

Our Church History

Preparation

- Prepare a presentation to teach your church's history. Show pictures from different generations.
 - » When was your church founded? What buildings has your church occupied? Have there been any remodels? Who are the different pastors?

Instruction

- Present your church's history.
- Discuss how your church has grown and changed over the course of time.

Application: When we come to church, we don't usually think about our heritage. Over the decades, many people have contributed and made sacrifices so we can have a church today. When we study our history, we learn how Jesus' church was and is alive and growing.

APPLICATION OPTION 1

A Growing Church

Preparation

- Find out the recent attendance records of your church.
- Count how many seats are in your sanctuary.

Instruction

- On the board, with students' help, draw a rough floor plan of your church. Include the sanctuary, fellowship areas, and classrooms.
- *Ask:* How many people do you think attended our church last Sunday?
 - » Play "higher" or "lower" until students guess the right number.
- *Ask:* How many people do you think our sanctuary can hold?
 - » Again play "higher" or "lower."
- *Ask:* What would happen if our church doubled or tripled in number overnight? Would our church be able to hold the people? How large would the main sanctuary need to be?
- Discuss the challenges your church would face if you experienced revival as found in the Book of Acts.

Application: In the Book of Acts, over five thousand people were added to the church in a couple of days. If we do our part to build God's church, who knows, maybe it will happen again.

APPLICATION OPTION 2

What Are You Building?

Instruction

- *Ask:* How do our choices and decisions affect God's church?
 - » *Say:* As members of God's church, Jesus' light shines through us. We bring light to our families, our church, and our community.
- *Ask:* What types of choices may block the light of Jesus from shining through us?
 - » How can we allow His light to keep shining through our lives?
- Let each student share an example of a wise choice that would help God's church grow.

Application: Good decisions help us build God's church.

Truth about God: God's church was and is alive and growing.



WORSHIP

Supplies: Video Quick Links document **DR**

Instruction

- If your students seemed interested in G. T. Haywood, let them listen to and respond to “Tribute to Bishop Garfield T. Haywood” performed by the PAW Mass Choir **QL**.
- “Have Your Way” by Draylin Young **QL**
- “Be Exalted / I Exalt Thee” by Brittani Scott **QL**
- “I Love My Church” by Rodney Huckey **QL**
- “See My City” by Apostolic Collective **QL**
- “I’ve Got the Holy Ghost” by PPH Kids Music **QL**
- “It’s for Me” by PPH Kids Music **QL**

GOD WANTS YOU
for **HIS ARMY**



JOIN NOW!

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

—Acts 2:38–39

MEMORY WORK

Special Memory Verse: Acts 2:38–39

Supplies: Special MW Phrases **DR**, New Birth poster **RKDR**, tape, paper, marker

Preparation

- Print and cut apart the Special MW Phrases **DR**.
 - » Prior to class, tape the phrases under students’ chairs.

Instruction

- Review the New Birth poster **RKDR**—Acts 2:38–39.
- Challenge students to look under their chairs and, while leaving the taped papers in place, line up their chairs in the order of the verses.
- After all the chairs are in order, have students be seated and use the poster to recite the verses together.

Application: God’s church was and is alive and growing. Peter’s message on the Day of Pentecost revealed how the church would continue to be built by God pouring out the Holy Ghost.

SNACK OPTION

Birthday of the Church Celebration

Supplies: Cupcakes, napkins, drinks, cups, birthday candles, matches or lighter, party decor, balloons

Instruction

- Have students help you decorate the room for a party.
 - » *Begin to inflate a balloon and say:* Balloons can add a lot to any celebration, but our balloons are flat. They need someone to breathe life into them.
 - » *Let the air out of the balloon and let the air out as you say:* On the Day of Pentecost, the sound of a rushing mighty wind filled the whole house.
- *As you light the candles, say:* These candles remind us of the tongues of fire that rested on the people in the upper room as they received the Holy Ghost.
- Clap your hands in celebration, say a prayer of thanks, and then blow out the candles, giving each student a cupcake to enjoy.

Application: We can celebrate because we are part of Jesus’ church who received His Spirit. Let’s thank God for making us part of His church that is alive and growing.

Truth for My Life: I will do my part to continue building God's church.

JBQ OPTION



Preparation

- Select one of the JBQ Games **DR**. Some games require additional props.
- Locate the JBQ Quiz(zes) **DR** that correspond with the current set(s) of verses being studied.

Instruction

- Distribute the current set of JBQ Verses **DR** to new students.
- Play the prepared game with students.
- If students have mastered the verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses **DR**. Otherwise let them study the same set of verses again for next week.

GAME OPTION

Doing Our Part

Supplies: 2 packages of mini marshmallows, large bowl, toothpicks, timer

Instruction

- Place the packages of mini marshmallows on a table.
- Keep the toothpicks hidden.
- Ask for two volunteers to compete against each other in a minute-to-win-it game.
- Say: You will have one minute to stack the marshmallows. The student with the highest stack will be the winner.
- Just before you start, give one student a handful of toothpicks, but don't comment about the player's unfair advantage.
- Say "go," and set the timer.
 - » The student with the toothpicks should win handily.
- Compare stacking the marshmallows to building God's church.

Application: As members of God's church, we are like the marshmallows. Without God's help, it is difficult to stand strong, grow, and help others find Jesus. God's Spirit holds us together, like the toothpicks connected the marshmallows. God's Spirit helps us grow spiritually strong, share Jesus with others, and build His church.

CRAFT OPTION

God's Church Is Growing

Supplies: Small flowerpots (1 per student), decorating supplies (markers, paint, or chalk), table covering, potting soil, grass seed, spray bottle of water, wet wipes or paper towels

Preparation

- For each student, purchase a small flowerpot to decorate.
- Decide if students will use paint, markers, or chalk, and provide the necessary supplies.
- If necessary, cover tables and prepare smocks.

Instruction

- Give each student a flowerpot to decorate.
 - » On the flowerpot, students write: GOD'S CHURCH IS GROWING.
 - » Then students can decorate the flowerpots as desired.
- Once finished, fill the flowerpots with soil, plant grass seed, and water them.

Application: As you watch the grass grow, remember that God's church is alive and growing too.

VIDEO REVIEW

- To review the Bible story by showing one of these videos:
 - » "Haywood Museum" by Apostolic Archives International **QL**
 - » "Bishop G. T. Haywood Grave" by Apostolic Archives International **QL**
 - » "Hoosier Black Excellence Series: Garfield Thomas 'GT' Haywood" by Educator Barnes **QL**
 - » "Pentecost for Kids: The Holy Spirit Comes" by ShareFaith Kids **QL**
 - » "God Sends the Holy Spirit" by Saddleback Kids **QL**

21

JESUS, LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 8:12; Acts 13:6–12

SERIES AIM

To bolster faith in Jesus by studying His “I AM” statements in John’s Gospel.

SERIES MEMORY VERSES

John 8:12

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

John 10:7

“Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.”

John 14:6

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

John 15:5

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

BIBLE LESSON VERSE

John 8:12



TRUTH ABOUT GOD

Jesus is the Light of the World.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will live in Jesus' light and refuse to walk in darkness.

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read John 8:12 in relation to Acts 13:6–12. Prayerfully consider what these verses say:

ABOUT GOD

Jesus is the Light of the World. When Elymas tried to prevent Sergius Paulus from seeing this truth, God blinded the sorcerer, shrouding him in literal darkness to match his wicked spiritual mindset. When the Roman official saw this demonstration of power, he believed Paul’s gospel message. The light of Jesus pushes away darkness so we can see Him as He truly is.

TO YOU AS A TEACHER

Be careful not to let the gloomy clouds of life darken your spiritual light. Jesus intends for His church to illuminate the darkness, not the other way around. If you are feeling downtrodden, get into your prayer closet and dig into God’s Word until you find the light switch. “The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day” (Proverbs 4:18).

TO YOUR STUDENTS

Be aware of students who may be influenced by philosophies and trends that promote darkness and evil, thinking darkness is somehow cool because it draws attention. Use wisdom to help these students consider the consequences of choosing to stay in darkness. Examine the necessity of being filled—and staying filled—with God’s Holy Spirit. With His power in their hearts, students will find strength to stand for Jesus in all circumstances.

SUPPLIES

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

- Variety of lights (e.g., string lights, battery-operated candles, flashlights, lamps, night-lights)
- Attendance poster **RKDR**, stickers, Series 2 MW poster **RKDR**

Video Introduction

- “Incredible Light Show: Podpoi v2 & Capsule 2.0” **QL**
- “Professional Stage Light Show 2022” **QL**

Opener

- Lighthouse poster **RKDR**

Opening Option 1

- Light bulbs of various wattages, lamps, variety of lights of varying brightness (e.g., string lights, battery-operated candles, flashlights, lamps, night-lights)

Opening Option 2

- *Per small group:* Paper, pencil

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Lesson Lead-In

- No supplies necessary

Bible Lesson

- Series 2 MW poster **RKDR**, 2 flashlights, fancy hat, bag of noisemaking devices (e.g., whistle, pot lids), Bible
- *Option:* 4 action figures (Sergius, Elymas, Barnabas, Paul)

APPLY AND ACT

- Sticky Notes, pencils, whiteboard and markers, New Birth poster **RKDR**

Application Option 1

- Laser light, handheld mirrors, doll

Application Option 2

- Black light, tonic water, clear cups, marker, water

Prayer and Response

- *Per student:* Small, battery-operated candle
- *Per student:* Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

Preparation

- Turn on a variety of extra lights around the room, such as string lights, battery-operated candles, flashlights, lamps, and night-lights. The lights will be used throughout the lesson.

Instruction

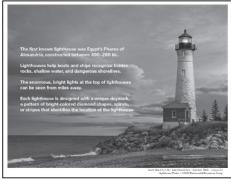
- As students enter, collect offering and record attendance.
- *Say:* In the next few weeks, we will study verses in which Jesus declared, “I AM.”
- Using the Series 2 MW poster **RKDR**, read John 8:12; 10:7; 14:6; and 15:5.
 - » *Say:* Today’s lesson will focus on John 8:12, when Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”
 - » Ask students for comments about the extra lights in the room.
- Announce the TAG: “Jesus is the Light of the World.”

Application: Jesus, the great I AM, provides many benefits for us. Today we will learn how He is the Light of the World, which we need to remove darkness from the world.

Video Introduction

- When it is time to get students’ attention, introduce lights by showing a video, such as:
 - » “Incredible Light Show: Podpoi v2 & Capsule 2.0” by FlowToys **QL**
 - » “Professional Stage Light Show 2022” by Carrie Hu **QL**

Opener: Lighthouses



Instruction

- Show the Lighthouse poster (RKDR) and discuss the facts on the poster.
- **Say:** Before modern technology was developed to guide boats and ships, lighthouses helped sailors navigate oceans and lakes. When sailors saw a lighthouse or the light shining from a lighthouse, they knew their vessel was approaching hidden rocks, shallow water, or a dangerous shoreline.

Application: Jesus is the Light of the World. He is like a lighthouse of protection for us. We need His guidance to avoid dangers in our lives.

For additional Opening Options that use different teaching styles, see page 51:

- Option 1: The Brightest Light
- Option 2: Jesus and Light

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Bible Lesson Verse

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life” (John 8:12).

Lesson Lead-In

Instruction

- Turn off the lights.
- Challenge students to sit quietly in the dark.
- Discuss how it can be difficult, even depressing, to sit in the dark for a prolonged period of time.

Application: Without light, our world can feel dark and depressing. This Bible lesson teaches how Jesus wants to bring light to our world, and what happens when someone stands in His way.

Bible Lesson: Jesus, Light of the World (John 8:12; Acts 13:6–12)

Preparation

- Gather a bag of noisemaking devices for Elymas, such as whistles, pot lids to clang, and so on.

Instruction

- Choose four students to play Sergius, Elymas, Barnabas, and Paul.
 - » Give flashlights to Barnabas and Paul. Have them stand on one side of the teaching area.
 - » Give a fancy hat to Sergius, who stands on the opposite side of the room.
 - » Give a bag of noisemaking devices to Elymas, who stands in the center of the room.

For smaller classes, consider using action figures to tell the story.

Truth for My Life: I will live in Jesus' light and refuse to walk in darkness.

Using the Series 2 MW poster **RKDR**, ask students to read John 8:12: "I am the light of the world." Jesus said this to a group of Pharisees who were doubting Him. Then He healed the sick, cast out devils, and did all sorts of miracles to prove He was the Light of the World. As Jesus ascended into Heaven, He told His followers to continue His work here on earth. Jesus made sure His followers had the same light He did by filling them with the Holy Ghost.

Two of Jesus' followers were named Paul and Barnabas. *Point to Paul and Barnabas.* After being filled with the Holy Ghost, Paul and Barnabas traveled to lots of places to tell people that Jesus was the Light of the World. In Acts 13, they traveled by boat to an island named Cyprus. On Cyprus, they went from town to town, teaching about Jesus. *Direct Paul and Barnabas to turn on the flashlights and say, "Jesus is the Light of the World."*

This island was ruled by a governor named Sergius Paulus. *Point to Sergius Paulus.* Sergius heard people talking about the teachings of Paul and Barnabas. He wanted to hear more, so he invited them to his house.

When Paul and Barnabas got there, a Jewish man named Elymas was with Sergius. *Point to Elymas in the middle.* Elymas was known for being a sorcerer (that's what his name meant). Elymas was filled with darkness and did not love God. He did illusions to deceive people to get what was best for himself. Elymas did not want Sergius Paulus to hear about Jesus, so he did all he could to distract Paul and Barnabas from delivering their message. *While Paul and Barnabas shine the flashlights and say, "Jesus is the Light of the World," Elymas uses the noisemaking devices.* Elymas did not want Sergius to hear how Jesus was the Light of the World.

Paul tried to show patience, but eventually he had enough. *Paul shines his flashlight on Elymas.* Full of the Holy Ghost, Paul looked Elymas straight in the eye and said, "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of righteousness. You are full of lies and trickery. Why do you twist God's Word to meet your evil needs?" Elymas probably laughed because his interruptions were getting under Paul's skin.

As Sergius Paulus watched in amazement, Paul pointed at Elymas and declared, "Watch! Because of your wickedness, the hand of the Lord will punish you. God will strike you blind. For a whole season, you won't be able to see any sunlight." When Paul finished talking, God shut Elymas's eyes. *Have Elymas act this out.* God made him blind so he could no longer see any light at all. To walk around, someone had to lead Elymas by the hand.

When Governor Sergius saw the power of God, he was amazed and immediately believed Jesus was the Light of the World. *Instruct Sergius to say, "I see it. Jesus is the Light of the World."* Eventually, Elymas was able to see again. When we believe Jesus is God, we can see the true Light of the World, which will lead us to Heaven.

Review Questions

- In John 8:12, what did Jesus call Himself? *The Light of the World*
- Why were Paul and Barnabas traveling? *To tell people about Jesus*
- Who was Elymas? What did he do? *He was a sorcerer who kept Paul and Barnabas from telling Sergius Paulus about Jesus.*
- How did God punish Elymas? *God struck him blind for a time.*
- Describe one way we can get rid of darkness in our lives.
- How can we live in the light of Jesus?

APPLY AND ACT

Walk in His Light

Preparation

- On sticky Notes, write a variety of choices that represent living in darkness or living in the light of Jesus.
 - » Examples of “light” include: love, peace, comfort, joy, healthy families, wisdom, knowledge, guidance, friendships, eternal life, reading the Bible, and praying. This could also include specific kind acts, like sending an encouraging card to an elderly person or calling a friend.
 - » For the “darkness” Notes, write the opposite of the “light” things, as well as negative actions, such as lying to parents, cheating on a test, wearing immodest clothing, making fun of a classmate, and watching bad videos.

Instruction

- As a class, say the TML: “I will live in Jesus’ light and refuse to walk in darkness.”
- Discuss the choice Jesus gives us to follow Him.
 - » Say: He won’t force us to leave darkness, but He will illuminate a higher path to show us the way out of darkness.
- On the board, create two columns: LIGHT and DARKNESS.
- Show one sticky note at a time.
 - » Choose a student to put the sticky note in the correct column. Provide guidance as needed.
- When the activity is complete, review the New Birth poster **RKDR** in relation to living in Jesus’ light.
- Ask: How can prayer and following God’s Word keep us in His light?
 - » Say: Prayer keeps us close to Jesus and helps us to understand the instructions in God’s Word.

Application: We must choose to live in Jesus’ light—a much brighter, healthier place to live. When we surrender to Him, He guides us on a pathway of love, peace, and joy that leads to eternal life. The instructions in God’s Word help us make wise choices and keep us from being trapped in the consequences of darkness. Let’s decide today to walk in the light of Jesus and refuse to walk in darkness.

For additional Application Options that use different teaching styles, see page 51:

- Option 1: Reflect His Light
- Option 2: Jesus Glow

Prayer and Response

Preparation

- Purchase a small, battery-operated candle for each student and guest.

Instruction

- Give each student a battery-operated candle to hold during prayer and then to take home.
 - » Thank Jesus for His light.
 - » Pray for each student to make the choice to refuse darkness and walk in the light of Jesus.
 - » End the prayer with thanksgiving and praise.
- Encourage students to take their candle home to remind them about Jesus, the Light of the World, and how they can walk in His light.
- Send each student home with an Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page.

Truth for My Life: I will live in Jesus' light and refuse to walk in darkness.

OPENING OPTION 1

The Brightest Light

Preparation

- Display various lights of varying brightness, such as string lights, battery-operated candles, flashlights, lamps, and night-lights.
- Purchase light bulbs of varying wattages. Have several lamps ready without bulbs.

Instruction

- Let students examine the display of lights.
 - » Ask: Which is your favorite? Which is your least favorite?
- Say: Light is measured in lumens and watts.
- Show your light bulbs and point out the different wattages.
 - » Say: A higher number of watts means the bulb should be brighter.
 - » Screw the light bulbs into lamps set up side-by-side to see if students can tell the difference.
- Ask students to rank all the lights in the room in order of brightness.

Application: Jesus is the Light of the World. The light of Jesus is stronger and brighter than any light we can ever imagine.

APPLICATION OPTION 1

Reflect His Light

Preparation

- From a dollar store, purchase a laser light and some handheld mirrors.

Instruction

- Show the laser light and dim the classroom lights.
- Choose a volunteer to hold a mirror.
- Say: This laser light represents Jesus. The mirror represents us. The doll represents someone who needs to hear about Jesus.
 - » Demonstrate how the mirror can be used to reflect the laser light so it hits the doll.
 - » Say: When we live in Jesus' light and walk in holiness, we reflect His light. We become a reflection of Him for the whole world to see.
- Give additional students handheld mirrors.
 - » Using the laser and the mirrors, challenge students to work together to create a chain of reflections aimed at reaching the doll in a hard-to-reach place.

Application: The church must work together to reflect Jesus' light. When we live in His light and refuse to walk in darkness, the world will see Him through us.

OPENING OPTION 2

Jesus and Light

Instruction

- Let students work in small groups. Give each group a sheet of paper and a pencil.
 - » Each group should choose a designated writer.
 - » The writer draws a line down the middle of the paper to make two columns.
- Ask: What are some benefits we get from having light?
 - » Groups discuss their answers and write them in the left column.
 - » Answers may include: light makes it easier to see, light provides brightness and cheer, and sunlight improves our health.
- Ask: What are some benefits we get from knowing Jesus as the Light of the World?
 - » Groups write these answers in the right column.
- Let groups share their answers with the rest of the class.

Application: Just like light helps us, Jesus helps us as the Light of the World. He improves our health, provides light for our activities, and makes life much easier.

APPLICATION OPTION 2

Jesus Glow

Preparation

- Locate a black light.
- Fill a clear cup with tonic water. Label it: JESUS.
- Fill another clear cup with regular water. Label it: THE WORLD.

Instruction

- Show the two cups.
 - » Ask: Can you see any difference in the liquid in these cups?
- Turn off the lights and turn on the black light.
 - » The tonic water should glow under the black light.
- Discuss ways to live in the light of Jesus.

Application: Just as this tonic water glows in the dark, the light of Jesus glows in the world because He is the Light of the World.



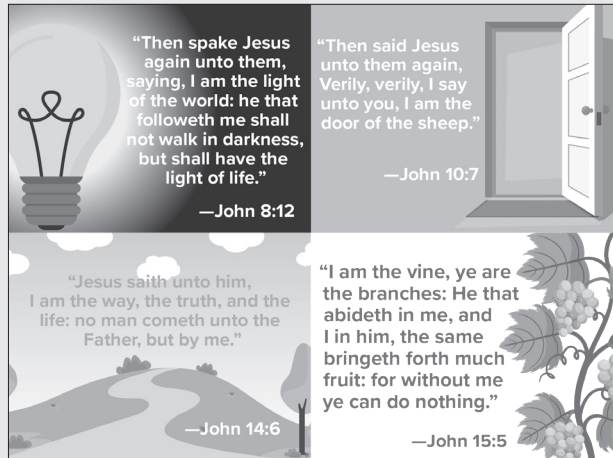
WORSHIP

Supplies: Video Quick Links document **DR**, glow sticks

Instruction

- Dim the lights and give each student a glow stick to activate during worship.
 - » “Forever (I Am)” by PPH Kids Music **QL**
 - » “Covenant Keeping God” by Urshan College **QL**
 - » “King of Glory | At the Cross” | IBC LIVE 2018 **QL**
 - » “+1” by Apostolic Kidz Collective **QL**
 - » “Light” by Make Some Noise Kids **QL**
 - » “Power” by PPH Kids Music **QL**

Application: When we worship Jesus, the Light of the World, He dispels darkness and keeps us in His light.



MEMORY WORK

Series 2 Memory Verses: John 8:12; John 10:7; John 14:6; John 15:5

Supplies: John 8:12 MW Light Bulbs **DR**, yellow paper, scissors, tape, Series 2 MW poster **RKDR**

Preparation

- On yellow paper, print the John 8:12 MW Light Bulbs **DR**. Cut them apart.
 - » Scatter the light bulbs on a table with the verse out of order.

Instruction

- Introduce the Series 2 MW poster **RKDR**.
- Say: During the next few weeks, we will study verses in which Jesus declared, “I AM.” Today we will focus on John 8:12.
 - » *Read John 8:12:* “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”
- Challenge students to place the light bulbs with John 8:12 in order and tape them to a wall.
- Recite the verse several times.

Application: Jesus is the Light of the World. We should reflect His light to others through our words and actions.

VIDEO REVIEW

- To review the Bible lesson, show one of the following videos:
 - » “Saul and the Sorcerer (Acts 13:4-12)” by HI BIBLE **QL**
 - » “Superbook Video Clip - Sergius Paulus Believes” by Good Friday **QL**

Truth for My Life: I will live in Jesus' light and refuse to walk in darkness.

JBQ OPTION



Preparation

- Select one of the JBQ Games **DR**. Some games require additional props.
- Locate the JBQ Quiz(zes) **DR** that correspond with the current set(s) of verses being studied.

Instruction

- Distribute the current set of JBQ Verses **DR** to new students.
- Play the prepared game with students.
- If students have mastered the verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses **DR**. Otherwise let them study the same set of verses again for next week.

SNACK OPTION

Bright Snacks

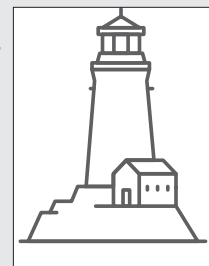
Supplies: Yellow or orange snack items (e.g., bananas, cheese cubes, carrots, Doritos, cheese puffs, cheese crackers, orange slices), black paper plates, napkins, drinks, cups

Instruction

- To represent light, serve yellow or orange snack items.
- To represent darkness, serve the items on black paper plates.
- As students fill their plates, point out the contrast between the bright snacks and the dark plates.
 - » Compare the contrast to a light-filled Christian who is living in a dark world.
- Choose a student to pray for the food and ask the Lord to help everyone walk in the light of Jesus.

Application: Jesus is the Light of the World. We can allow Jesus to shine through our lives and brighten our dark world.

CRAFT OPTION



Lighthouse Daymarks

Supplies: Internet access, Lighthouse Outline for Craft **DR**, white paper or cardstock, markers or crayons

Preparation

- For each student, print the Lighthouse Outline for Craft **DR** on white paper or cardstock.

Instruction

- Discuss how lighthouses are each designed with a unique daymark—a pattern of bright-colored diamond shapes, spirals, or stripes that identify the location of the lighthouse.
 - » On Google **QL** or Bing, search and show images of “Lighthouse Daymarks.”
- Give each student a Lighthouse Outline for Craft **DR** and art supplies, let students design their own, unique daymarks.

Application: When we allow the light of Jesus to shine through our lives, we help others find their way out of darkness.

GAME OPTION

Where's the Light?

Supplies: Flashlights, batteries

Preparation

- For each contestant, have an identical flashlight (with working batteries) that can be taken apart.

Instruction

- On a table, take apart a flashlight and lay out the components, including batteries.
- Ask for volunteers to race to assemble the flashlights.
 - » The first to assemble and turn on a working flashlight is the winner.
- After one round, race again, but this time in the dark.
- Ask: Was it more difficult to work in the dark? Why?

Application: With God's Holy Spirit in our lives, we can brighten our dark world.

2.2

JESUS, THE DOOR

John 10:1–19

SERIES AIM

To bolster faith in Jesus by studying His “I AM” statements in John’s Gospel.

SERIES MEMORY VERSES

John 8:12

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

John 10:7

“Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.”

John 14:6

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

John 15:5

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

BIBLE LESSON VERSE

John 10:7



TRUTH ABOUT GOD

Jesus is the only doorway leading to eternal life.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will follow my Shepherd.

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read John 10:1–19 focusing on verse 7. Prayerfully consider what this passage says:

ABOUT GOD

A sheepfold was a walled enclosure made of stones. Often thorny brush was placed on top of the wall to keep out predators and thieves. The sheepfold had only one opening. At night the shepherd would lay across the opening, thus becoming the door. Nothing and no one could enter without going over the shepherd. Jesus is the door to the sheepfold, and He promises to protect us as the Good Shepherd.

TO YOU AS A TEACHER

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and you are the under-shepherd of the lambs God has placed in your care. Your job is to lead them, feed them God’s Word, and protect them. How can you protect them when you are not with them 24/7? Pray. Stand between them and the evil that stalks them. Intercede for them. Cover them with prayer every day.

TO YOUR STUDENTS

Late-elementary students begin noticing new doors of opportunity that include greater independence from parents, a variety of educational options, and a larger group of friends. Now is the time for students to make a commitment to follow the Good Shepherd, who is the only door to eternal life in Heaven. They will especially need His guidance to navigate through their teen years.

SUPPLIES

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

- Shepherd costume, Sheep sound effect **DR**
- Paper or cardstock, marker, tape
- Attendance poster **RKDR**, stickers, Series 2 MW poster **RKDR**

Video Introduction

- “Mesmerising Mass Sheep Herdin” **QL**
- “Sheep Laugh Funny Sound” **QL**
- “Sheep-1, Fisherman-0” **QL**

Opener

- Sheepfold made of chairs, shepherd costume, shepherd’s staff, snack (e.g., “fluffy” Rice Krispies treats)

Opening Option 1

- “COEXIST Bumper Sticker” image on Google **QL**

Opening Option 2

- Local door pictures
- *Per student:* Paper, pencil

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Lesson Lead-In

- Shepherd visual **RKDR**

Bible Lesson

- Sheepfold made of chairs, shepherd’s costume with staff, Bibles

APPLY AND ACT

- *Per student:* Large marshmallow, small marshmallow, pretzel sticks, napkin or small plate

Application Option 1

- *Per student:* Psalm 23 handout **RKDR**

Application Option 2

- Video about Chris the Sheep **QL**, New Birth poster

Prayer and Response

- *Per student:* Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

Preparation

- Dress as a shepherd to greet students.
- Using paper or cardstock, make a sign for each classroom door.
 - » For the classroom’s main entrance, create a sign that says: ENTER HERE.
 - » For any other classroom doors, create signs that say: DO NOT ENTER.
 - » Attach the signs to the doors.

Instruction

- Play the Sheep sound effect **DR** in the background as students arrive.
- Stand at the main door dressed as a shepherd, greeting each student by name as you take attendance and collect offering.
- Display the Series 2 MW poster **RKDR**, read John 8:12; 10:7; 14:6; and 15:5.
 - » *Say:* Today’s lesson will focus on John 10:7, when Jesus said, “I am the door of the sheep.”
 - » Have students point to the doors they see in the room.
 - » Ask students to identify the sound they hear. *Sheep*
- Introduce the TAG: “Jesus is the only doorway leading to eternal life.”

Application: Today I am your shepherd. It will be my job to make you feel safe as we learn how Jesus described Himself as the door to a sheepfold.

Video Introduction

- When it is time to get students’ attention, consider showing one of the following videos about sheep:
 - » “Mesmerising Mass Sheep Herding” by Caters Clips **QL**
 - » “Sheep Laugh Funny Sound” by BG_Slavko **QL**
 - » “Sheep-1, Fisherman-0” by Waggle TV **QL**

Opener: Introducing the Sheepfold

Preparation

- In the middle of an open area, use chairs as walls to make a sheepfold large enough to hold all students, with an opening where students will enter.
- Prepare to serve a snack, such as “fluffy” Rice Krispies treats.

Instruction

- Students start outside the sheepfold.
- *Draw attention to your costume and say:* I am the shepherd; you are my sheep. It is my job to keep you safe. At night, I keep you safe by herding you into a sheepfold I have prepared for you.
- Use your shepherd’s staff to gently guide students into the sheepfold.
 - » You may need to coax the sheep by showing them the treat they will eat once inside the sheepfold.
- *Say:* Shepherds would lead their flocks into a sheepfold at night to protect them from wild animals. In the protected area, the sheep could rest peacefully.
- *Say:* By design, a sheepfold had just one door—one way in and out—so the shepherd could stand watch at the door.

Application: In today’s Bible lesson, we will learn that Jesus called Himself “the door of the sheep.” Jesus is the only door that leads to eternal life.

For additional Opening Options that use different teaching styles, see page 59:

- Option 1: Which Door?
- Option 2: Identifying Doors

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Bible Lesson Verse

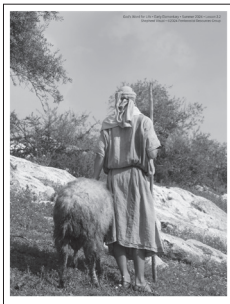
“Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep” (John 10:7).

Lesson Lead-In

Instruction

- Show the Shepherd visual **RKDR**.
 - » *Ask:* What job does this person do?
 - » Point out his clothing and his location.
- *Ask:* What is a shepherd responsible for watching? *Sheep*

Application: In today’s Bible lesson, we will learn about when Jesus talked to people who lived near fields and open areas where many sheep were cared for by shepherds. Shepherds were responsible for watching sheep and keeping them safe. Today we will find out how Jesus keeps us safe.



Bible Lesson: Jesus, the Door (John 10:1–19)

Preparation

- If you did not construct a sheepfold using chairs in the Opener (above), construct it now. Be sure to have an opening in one wall where “sheep” can enter.
- To tell the Bible lesson, dress as a shepherd with a staff, walking cane, or long stick.

Instruction

- For a smaller class, have all students be sheep. For a larger class, select a handful of students to represent the flock.
- Have students look up John 10 in their Bibles. You will ask them to read during the lesson.

Truth for My Life: I will follow my Shepherd.

In Bible times, shepherding was a popular job, and sheep were one of the main sources for food, clothing, and income. As Jesus and His disciples went from city to city teaching about God's kingdom, when Jesus talked about sheep, people's ears immediately perked up; they were familiar with shepherds and sheep.

Ask a student to read John 10:11. In this verse, Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd. In the verses before this, He described His followers as sheep. Jesus likened people to sheep for several reasons:

- Sheep are dependent upon shepherds for direction and protection.
- Sheep are strong, but they are not survivors. When a sheep falls onto its back, it cannot get up. Without help from someone to roll the sheep onto its feet, it will die within a few hours.
- Sheep wander and easily become lost.
- Sheep are defenseless, an easy prey for predators like lions and wolves.
- Sheep will eat anything, even poisonous weeds.

But in other ways, sheep are smart.

- They recognize and follow their shepherd's voice and will not follow a stranger.
- Sheep usually stay with their flock. They are not loners.

Ask a student to read John 10:7 and then verse 14. In these verses, Jesus said He was both the door and the shepherd. How is this possible? *Point out your costume.* I am the shepherd. You are the sheep. Remember, sheep know their shepherd's voice and follow only their shepherd.

In the daytime, sheep scatter across the pasture to eat without paying much attention to the shepherd. *Instruct students to scatter in the room.* All day the shepherd watches over the flock. *Roam around, checking on the flock.* When the sun starts to set, wild animals like wolves and lions come out of hiding. Then it is time for the sheep to go into the sheepfold. *Call students by name to go into the sheepfold.* To gather sheep into the sheepfold, the shepherd uses a staff to gently direct and count the sheep. *Stand in the doorway of the sheepfold. Count as students walk under the staff.*

Once all the sheep are in the fold, the shepherd lies down in the doorway to become the door—the only door. *Do so.* No sheep, no wolf, no thief—nothing can enter or leave the fold without passing over the shepherd. The shepherd becomes the door. Thus, Jesus said, “I am the door. . . . I am the good shepherd.”

When morning comes, the sheep follow the shepherd back to the pasture. *Students return to their seats.*

Jesus is the only doorway leading to eternal life. Jesus promised to protect His sheep, us, from danger and bring us to safety. Jesus wants to keep us from evil so we can live with Him forever and ever. Jesus said His sheep will know His voice. Do you recognize the voice of your Shepherd? Will you follow Jesus and let Him lead you to safety? You can trust Him and follow Him because He loves you.

Review Questions

- Why do sheep need a shepherd? *For protection*
- Why is it important for sheep to know their shepherd's voice? *The shepherd has their best interest in mind.*
- Why is there only one door to the sheepfold? *To give the shepherd complete control to protect the sheep*
- How does the shepherd become the door? *He lays in the doorway.*
- Who is the doorway leading to eternal life? *Jesus*
- What did Jesus do to give us eternal life? *He died on the cross for our sins.*
- What is one way you can follow Jesus, your Shepherd? *Answers include: repent, be baptized, receive the Holy Ghost, read God's Word, and pray.*

APPLY AND ACT

Marshmallow Sheep

Preparation

- Create a sample marshmallow sheep.

Instruction

- Give each student a large marshmallow, a small marshmallow, and a few pretzel sticks (legs and neck) to make marshmallow sheep.
 - » Show your sample sheep for students to create their own.
- *As students work, ask:* How are we like sheep?
 - » Why is it important to follow the Good Shepherd?
- *Say:* Since Jesus is not here to lead us in person, He has given us an under-shepherd.
 - » *Ask:* Who is that under-shepherd? *Our pastor*
 - » What is the “staff” our pastor uses to direct and protect us? *The Word of God*
- Discuss some scenarios where students may have a hard time making good choices.
 - » *Ask:* When someone makes you angry, how can you follow the Good Shepherd?
 - » *Ask:* When your friends choose to watch something you know you shouldn’t be watching, how can you follow the Good Shep-herd?
 - » *Ask:* When someone is not kind to you, how can you follow the Good Shepherd?

Application: We honor the Good Shepherd when we choose to make good choices. When we choose to make choices that point people to Jesus, we are following the Good Shepherd.

For additional Application Options that use different teaching styles, see page 59:

- Option 1: Psalm 23
- Option 2: Chris the Sheep

Prayer and Response

Instruction

- Pray for students and their families to follow and trust Jesus.
 - » *Say:* Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us. We need . . .
 - » *Say:* Lord Jesus, thank You for our pastor, the shepherd of our church flock. Give our pastor . . .
 - » Pray we learn to hear God’s voice and follow it.
 - » Pray for God to give the courage to follow His voice and avoid distractions.
 - » Pray we would not let the enemy deceive us.
 - » Thank God for giving us eternal life.
- Send each student home with an Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page.

OPENING OPTION 1

Which Door?



Preparation

- Place a box of snacks behind a classroom door that could be opened and shut without interrupting another class. This could be a closet or a cabinet.

Instruction

- Say: Only one door is the right door. Behind that door you will find the treasure—a box of snacks.
- Select one student at a time to stand and select only one door to check behind.
 - If the student is wrong, the student sits back down, and you select another student.
 - Continue until the correct door is chosen.
- Show a “COEXIST bumper sticker” from Google [QL](#).
- Ask: What is this bumper sticker trying to say? Do you agree with its message?
 - Say: All the symbols on this bumper sticker represent different religions. This suggests that no one can know the way to Heaven, so we should all just peacefully coexist.

Application: In life you may encounter people who name false gods as other ways to find eternal life. The Bible says Jesus is the door—the only way—to eternal life.

APPLICATION OPTION 1

Psalm 23

Preparation

- Print and cut apart the Psalm 23 handouts [RK](#) [DR](#). Each student needs one.

Instruction

- Say: Jesus is the Good Shepherd. We are His sheep. When people think about Jesus as their Good Shepherd, they like to read Psalm 23 because it reminds them of the goodness and protection found in God.
- Give each student a copy of the Psalm 23 handout.
 - As you read Psalm 23 aloud, have students follow along. Each time you pause, students read the next word aloud.
- Read through the passage a second time, discussing the meaning behind each verse.
- Ask: What are some benefits of following the Good Shepherd?
 - The list should include food, water, restoration, comfort, protection, anointing, goodness, and mercy.

Application: When we decide to follow Jesus, we will find everything we need, along with many extra blessings.

OPENING OPTION 2

Identifying Doors

Preparation

- During the week, take pictures of doors around town that students might recognize, such as the grocery store, the school, the library, a convenience store, the hospital, the police station, and your church.

Instruction

- Give each student a sheet of paper and a pencil.
- As you show each door picture, give students four options and let them try to name the location of the door. For example, “Is this the door to the grocery store, the library, the police station, or our church?”
- Provide answers and see if anyone correctly identified every door.

Application: In life you will be offered many choices—doors of opportunity that could lead you closer to or further away from Jesus. In today’s Bible lesson, we will learn that Jesus called Himself “the door of the sheep”—the only door that leads to eternal life.

APPLICATION OPTION 2

Chris the Sheep

Instruction

- Show the video about Chris the Sheep posted by Zoo Land [QL](#).
- Ask: How did Chris get into such a mess?
 - He did not respond to his shepherd’s voice and follow the shepherd home.
 - He strayed away from the flock.
 - He was not sheared regularly.
- Ask: How is shearing beneficial to sheep? How is it beneficial to the shepherd?
- Ask: How does the Word of God shear us? *It cuts off weights that drag us down.*
- Ask: How can we avoid getting lost and overloaded like Chris?
- Review the New Birth poster [RK](#) [DR](#) and discuss the importance of staying close to Jesus through prayer and repentance.

Application: If we want to be spiritually strong and healthy, we must follow our Shepherd.

Truth about God: Jesus is the only doorway leading to eternal life.



WORSHIP

Supplies: Video Quick Links document **DR**, shepherd costume and staff from the Bible lesson

Instruction

- “Forever (I Am)” by PPH Kids Music **QL**
- “Psalm 23 (I Am Not Alone)” by People & Songs **QL**
- “Oh My Shepherd” by Jana Alayra **QL**
- “The Lost Sheep” by Two by 2 **QL**
- “Found a Help (Live)” by The Pentecostals of Katy **QL**
- “The Way That I Take” by First Pentecostal Church of North Little Rock **QL** (provided in English and Spanish)

Application: Jesus is the only doorway leading to eternal life. He is our Good Shepherd, and we should follow Him.

CRAFT OPTION

Door Hanger

Supplies: Door Hanger for Craft **DR**, art supplies (e.g., markers, crayons, stickers, and so on)

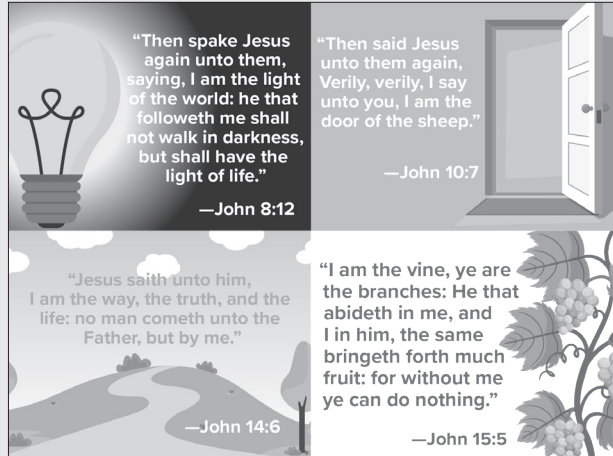
Preparation

- For each student, print a Door Hanger for Craft **DR** on cardstock, and then cut it out.

Instruction

- Give each student a door hanger and access to art supplies.
- Challenge students to use their creativity to make a door hanger about Jesus being the only door leading to eternal life.

Application: Jesus is the door that leads to eternal life. He also opens doors of opportunity for our spiritual, physical, and emotional health. He helps us with our education. He enhances our personal relationships. He is the Good Shepherd, and we should follow Him.



MEMORY WORK

Series 2 Memory Verses: John 8:12; John 10:7; John 14:6; John 15:5

Supplies: Stuffed animal sheep, flashlight, music, Series 2 MW poster **RKDR**

Preparation

- Locate a sheep stuffed animal and a flashlight. These will be used again in lessons 2.3 and 2.4.

Instruction

- Using the Series 2 MW poster **RKDR** review John 8:12 from lesson 2.1: “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”
- Then read John 10:7 from the poster: “Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.”
- *Hold up the flashlight and the sheep and say:* Jesus is the Light of the World and the door of the sheep.
- Have students sit in a circle.
- Play a song (from Worship) as students pass around the sheep and the flashlight in two different directions. When the music stops, simultaneously:
 - » The student holding the flashlight stands and says John 8:12.
 - » The student holding the sheep stands and says John 10:7.
 - » The student who finished last is out of the game.
- Start the music and pass around the sheep and flashlight again.

Application: Jesus is the Light of the World and the only doorway leading to eternal life. When we memorize God’s Word, we become better equipped to follow our Good Shepherd.

Truth for My Life: I will follow my Shepherd.

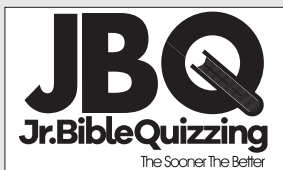
JBQ OPTION

Preparation

- Select one of the JBQ Games **DR**. Some games require additional props.
- Locate the JBQ Quiz(zes) **DR** that correspond with the current set(s) of verses being studied.

Instruction

- Distribute the current set of JBQ Verses **DR** to new students.
- Play the prepared game with students.
- If students have mastered the verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses **DR**. Otherwise let them study the same set of verses again for next week.



GAME OPTION

Listen to the Shepherd's Voice

Supplies: Blindfolds

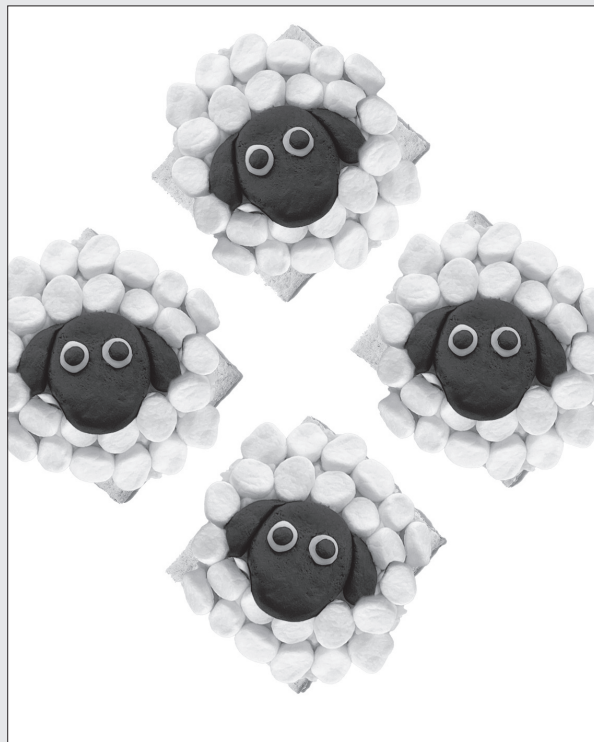
Preparation

- Gather enough blindfolds for each pair of students to have one.

Instruction

- Pair up students.
 - » Have each pair decide who will be a sheep and who will be the shepherd.
- Gather the sheep in the center of the room and blindfold them.
 - » They should kneel on their hands and knees. For safety, blindfolded students should not be standing.
- Quietly move the shepherds to another part of the room. The shepherds do not need to be together; they can be spread out in the room.
- Have the shepherds call for the sheep. The sheep should crawl on all fours to find their shepherd.
- The first blindfolded sheep to find his or her shepherd wins.

Application: When we listen to the voice of Jesus, our Good Shepherd, He leads us to the door of safety. We can trust Jesus alone and follow His voice.



SNACK OPTION

No Bake Sheep Graham

Supplies: Graham crackers, mini marshmallows, white frosting, condiment cups, plastic butter knives, chocolate candy melts, candy eyes, plates, napkins, cups, drinks

Preparation

- For each student, place the items needed to make a sheep Graham on a paper plate.

Instruction

- Provide each student with a condiment cup of white frosting and a plastic butter knife.
- Assist students with spreading the white frosting on the Graham crackers.
- Near the middle of the cracker, place a chocolate candy melt for the sheep's head.
- Spread frosting on the back of the candy eyes and place them on top of the chocolate melt.
- Place marshmallows all around on the white frosting to make the sheep's wool.

Application: Jesus is our Good Shepherd. Just like a shepherd leads the sheep to safety, Jesus keeps us safe. We can trust Him and follow Him.

VIDEO REVIEW

- To review the Bible lesson, consider showing the video "Jesus the Good Shepherd | Bible Stories with Sarah & Simon" by Bible Kids **QL**

2.3

SERIES 2: JESUS—THE I AM

JESUS—THE WAY, TRUTH, AND LIFE

John 14:6; Acts 4:1–22

SERIES AIM

To bolster faith in Jesus by studying His “I AM” statements in John’s Gospel.

SERIES MEMORY VERSES

John 8:12

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

John 10:7

“Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.”

John 14:6

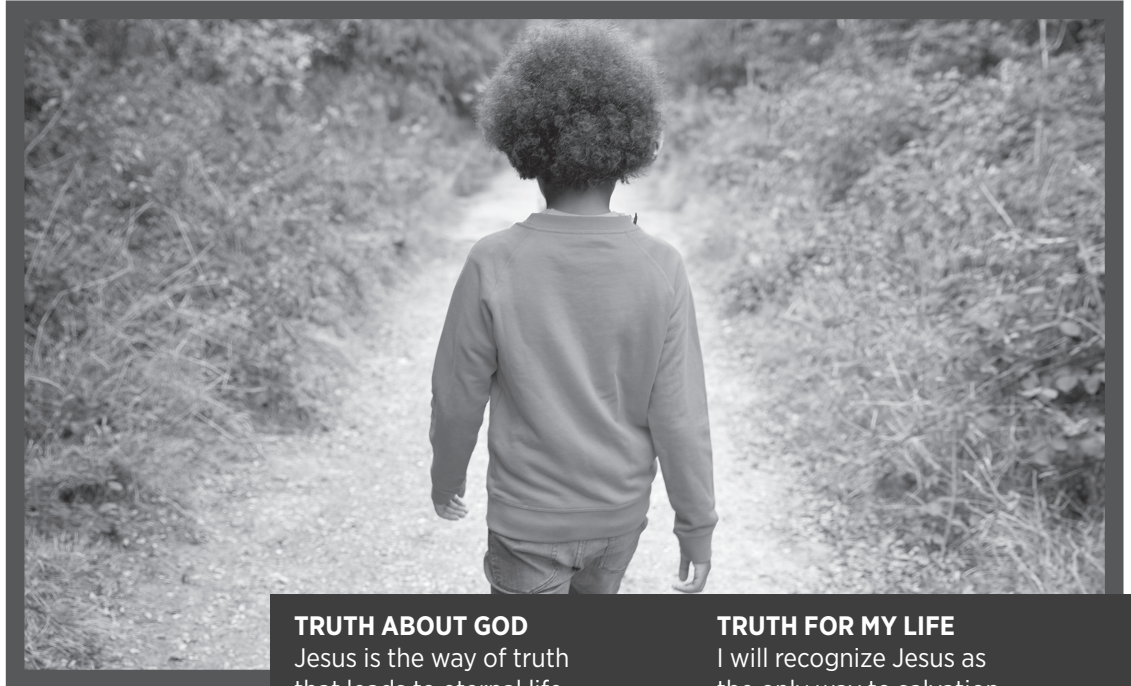
“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

John 15:5

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

BIBLE LESSON VERSE

John 14:6



TRUTH ABOUT GOD

Jesus is the way of truth that leads to eternal life.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will recognize Jesus as the only way to salvation.

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read John 14:6 in relation to Acts 4:1–22. Prayerfully consider what these verses say:

ABOUT GOD

In this mixed-up religious world, people declare many roads to salvation. In contrast, Jesus said He is the only way to see God. Is Jesus’ statement in John 14:6 true? Either Jesus is right and we should obey the Bible, or the others are correct and we can discard the Bible. Thankfully, as we believe in the only name whereby we can be saved, the Holy Spirit confirms we have made the right choice.

TO YOU AS A TEACHER

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15). As you prepare for this lesson, if any doubt has crept into your mind about Jesus being the only way, ask someone for a Bible study. Do not stop until you are convinced of this essential truth.

TO YOUR STUDENTS

Children ask a lot of questions. They start looking for answers to life’s questions at a young age. The world teaches that people can have their own road to truth. Let students know the benefits of being truthful, honest, and reliable. By learning Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, your students will know the one who has all the answers.

SUPPLIES

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

- Detective costume
- Attendance poster **RKDR**, stickers, Series 2 MW poster **RKDR**

Video Introduction

- “Walking on Air at Huang Shan - The Yellow Mountain” **QL**
- “Huashan Cliffside Plank Walk” **QL**

Opener

- Station Directions **RKDR**
- *Station 1:* Table, paper or cardstock sign, marker, large map, highlighter, toy cars, cardstock arches, tape
- *Station 2:* Table, paper or cardstock sign, marker, “Find the Truth” cards **RKDR**

- *Station 3:* Table, paper or cardstock sign, marker, basket of living and non-living items, circle stickers

Opening Option 1

- Tape or chalk hopscotch grid, paper with words, tape, JESUS stone

Opening Option 2

- *Per student:* Age-appropriate maze, sheet of paper, pencil or crayons

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Lesson Lead-In

- No supplies necessary

Bible Lesson

- Bibles

APPLY AND ACT

- “How to Make a Compass” **QL**
- Compass or compass app, strong magnet, sewing needle, paper bowl, marker, water, paper, New Birth poster **RKDR**

Application Option 1

- Box of snacks labeled: HEAVEN, Path to Heaven clue cards **RKDR**, Bible, New Birth poster **RKDR**

Application Option 2

- Candy Land game, review or Bible trivia questions

Prayer and Response

- *Per student:* Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

Preparation

- Dress as a detective to greet students.

Instruction

- As students enter, collect offering and record attendance.
- *Say:* I am dressed as a detective because we will look for clues today.
- Using the Series 2 MW poster **RKDR**, read John 14:6.
 - » *Say:* Today’s lesson will focus on John 14:6, when Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”
- Announce the TAG: “Jesus is the way of truth that leads to eternal life.”

Application: Today we will look for clues that reveal how Jesus shows us the only way we can get to Heaven. He leads us in paths of righteousness. He helps us find full truth. If we choose His way, we will be blessed.

Video Introduction

- When it is time to get students’ attention, consider showing a POV video of a dangerous path:
 - » “Walking on Air at Huang Shan - The Yellow Mountain” by Erez Saf **QL**
 - » “Huashan Cliffside Plank Walk” by Figo Fromage **QL**

Application: Some people think they need to follow a dangerous path to see something beautiful. Jesus wants to show us the path (the way) that will lead us to the most beautiful place of all—Heaven.

Opener: Find the Way

Preparation

- For an optimal teaching experience, follow the Station Directions **RD** to prepare for this lesson segment.
 - » If preparation time or supplies are limited, summarize the concept to be discussed at each station. Then question students to determine if they understand the roles of Jesus.

Instruction

- Lead students through the prepared stations.
- **Station 1: WHO IS THE WAY?**
 - » Students drive toy cars through the tunnels and along the route highlighted on the map.
 - » Point out the letters printed on the five tunnels that spell out JESUS.
 - » Say: Jesus is the way that leads to eternal life.
- **Station 2: WHO IS THE TRUTH?**
 - » Students find the true statements and unscramble the letters printed in bold to spell out JESUS.
 - » Say: Jesus is the truth.
- **Station 3: WHO IS THE LIFE?**
 - » Students sort items in the basket to find the living items with attached stickers that spell out JESUS.
 - » Say: Jesus is the life.

Application: No matter where we go, no matter what other people say, no matter what situations we encounter in our lives, this statement will always be true, “Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.”

For additional Opening Options that use different teaching styles, see page 67:

- Option 1: Hopping through Life
- Option 2: A-Maze-ing Truth

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Bible Lesson Verse

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

Lesson Lead-In

Instruction

- Ask: What does it mean to tell the truth?
 - » Why is it important to tell the truth?
- Ask: Is it always easy to tell the truth?

Application: Jesus was very clear about the importance of telling the truth. He made sure anyone who heard His lessons could tell He was giving good, honest instructions that could be trusted.

Bible Lesson: Jesus—the Way, Truth, and Life (John 14:6)

Instruction

Ask students to look up and read John 14:6: “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” Jesus was letting people know they could have eternal life if they would put their trust in Him and follow His instructions. Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He told His followers to go and teach about Him in every nation. When people believed in Him, the disciples baptized them in Jesus’ name. Jesus also gave them power by filling them with the Holy Ghost.

Truth for My Life: I will recognize Jesus as the only way to salvation.

Two of Jesus' disciples named Peter and John received the Holy Ghost, just like Jesus had promised. From that moment, all they wanted to do was tell people about Jesus. *Ask students to look up Acts 3.* In Acts 3, Peter and John prayed for a man who was over forty years old and had never been able to walk. When Peter prayed for the man in the name of Jesus, the man jumped up and ran into the Temple, praising God. People watched in awe. They wanted to hear more about the power of Jesus. Peter and John taught the astonished crowds, encouraging them to follow the instructions of Jesus. In just a few days, over five thousand people were born again and joined God's church.

Local religious leaders were not happy about these new followers of Jesus. They didn't care if people were being healed; they wanted to stop Peter and John from teaching about Jesus because they didn't believe in Jesus. They did not believe Jesus had risen from the dead. They didn't believe He was the way, the truth, and the life. They became so angry, they threw the disciples into jail. Clang! That night Peter and John slept in jail, but it would not stop them from telling people about Jesus.

The next day, the leaders brought Peter and John out of the jail to talk to them. The men asked, "By what power, or by what name have you been teaching? How are you doing these miracles?"

Full of the Holy Ghost, Peter and John told the religious leaders how Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. They explained, "If you're asking how the lame man was made whole, it was by the name of Jesus. You crucified Him, but God raised Him from the dead. He is the one who healed the man's legs. Jesus is the foundation of everything we teach. Jesus is the only name by which anyone can be saved." Peter said, "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

The religious leaders did not like hearing this, but they could see how the Holy Ghost was making Peter and John wise, courageous, and able to do miracles. The leaders stepped aside for a discussion. "What are we going to do about these men? We can't deny the miracle, but we also can't let them keep talking about Jesus." Finally they decided and told Peter and John, "We will let you out of jail, but you must stop telling people about Jesus."

Peter and John spoke up right away. "Do you think God wants us to obey you rather than Him? We cannot stop talking about what we have seen and heard."

The religious leaders threatened Peter and John again but finally let them go because they were afraid of the crowd. The people were all glorifying God for the lame man's healing. The religious leaders had no choice but to let Peter and John go home.

When they got home, Peter and John found all their friends were praying for them. Do you think Peter and John stopped talking about Jesus and praying in Jesus' name? No way. When Peter and John shared how Jesus had kept them safe, everyone praised God and started praying. The Holy Ghost shook the room, and everyone was filled with courage. Peter and John knew Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the only way that leads to Heaven. We must be brave and tell others to follow Jesus, just like Peter and John did.

Review Questions

- What happened that caused people to believe in Jesus?
- Why didn't the religious leaders want people to believe in Jesus?
- How did Peter and John have courage, even after they were thrown into jail?
- What did Peter tell the leaders about Jesus? *He is "the way, the truth, and the life." "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*
- Why didn't Peter and John obey the leaders and stop preaching about Jesus? *Obedying God was more important than obeying the religious leaders.*
- Do you recognize Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life?

APPLY AND ACT

Jesus, Our Compass

Preparation

- Check out the website “How to Make a Compass” by Steam Powered Family [QL](#).

Instruction

- As a class, say the TML: “I will recognize Jesus as the only way to salvation.”
- Discuss the importance of a compass and a map when someone is lost in the wilderness.
 - » Say: With a compass to find true north, the person will have a greater chance of finding the way to safety.
- Magnetize a needle by pressing the south pole of a strong magnet against the center of the needle and gently stroking the magnet on the needle five or more times toward the point.
- On a paper bowl, make four marks—N (north), W (west), S (south), and E (east).
 - » Fill the bowl with water.
- Float the magnetized needle on a paper “boat” in the water.
 - » Watch as the needle naturally aligns to point straight north.
- Use a compass or compass app to verify that the needle is pointing “due north.”
- Review the New Birth poster [RKDR](#).
 - » Ask: What are some temptations kids your age wrestle with?

Application: Jesus is our spiritual compass. God’s Word points the way to salvation because Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. If we continue to follow Him by praying and studying God’s Word every day, He will guide us to safety in this life and to eternal life in Heaven one day.

For additional Application Options that use different teaching styles, see page 67:

- Option 1: Scavenger Hunt to Heaven
- Option 2: The Winning Way

Prayer and Response

Instruction

- Lead students in prayer.
 - » Worship Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life.
 - » Pray for each student to follow Jesus.
 - » Pray for everyone to share the good news of salvation through Jesus with others.
 - » Thank Jesus for being the way of truth that leads to eternal life.
- Send each student home with an Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page.

Truth for My Life: I will recognize Jesus as the only way to salvation.

OPENING OPTION 1

Hopping through Life

Preparation

- Use tape or chalk to make a hopscotch grid.
 - » Inside each square, tape down a paper with a word describing a life situation. (e.g. problems, fun, vacations, homework, sickness, family, friends, challenges, arguments.
 - » The final square should say HEAVEN.
- On a smooth round stone, use a permanent marker to write: JESUS.

Instruction

- One student at a time holds the JESUS rock and hops through the life situations.
- After reaching the end of the grid, the student says, “Jesus is the way that leads to eternal life.”
- Then the student hands the rock to the next student in line.

Application: When we have Jesus, we can enjoy life. We can also find courage to face life’s challenges. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

OPENING OPTION 2

A-Maze-ing Truth

Preparation

- Locate a variety of age-appropriate mazes. Each student will need one.

Instruction

- Say: In a maze, only one way will get you to the end. You must follow the only correct path from beginning to end. When you hit a dead end, you must repent, which means to turn around, and search for the right path leading to the end.
- Hand out mazes and pencils or crayons and let students work through them.
- Then give each student a sheet of paper to create their own maze for classmates to solve. At the beginning, they should draw themselves. At the end, they should write: ETERNAL LIFE. Along the way, the path should pass through THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE at different parts of the maze.
 - » Say: Remember, there can only be one way through.

Application: These mazes remind us there is only one way to get to Heaven. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. To get through the maze of life, we must trust Jesus to show us His way.

APPLICATION OPTION 1

Scavenger Hunt to Heaven

Preparation

- Hide a box of snacks labeled: HEAVEN.
- Cut apart the Path to Heaven clue cards **RKDR**. Make a series of clues, hiding the Initial Clue card in your Bible. The Initial Clue should lead to the Repent card, which should lead to the Baptism card, then to the Holy Ghost card, and ultimately to the HEAVEN snack.

Instruction

- Say: In John 14:6, Jesus said He was the only way to get to Heaven.
- Notice the Initial Clue in your Bible.
- Read the clue out loud. Let students lead you to the Repent card.
 - » Discuss *repentance* before reading the clue that leads to the Baptism card.
 - » Discuss *baptism* before reading the clue that leads to the Holy Ghost card.
 - » Discuss the *Holy Ghost* before reading the clue that leads to the heavenly treasure.
- Use the New Birth poster **RKDR** to review God’s plan of salvation.

Application: These clues showed us Jesus’ path that leads to Heaven. If we want to go to Heaven, we should trust Jesus and follow His way.

APPLICATION OPTION 2

The Winning Way

Preparation

- Prepare review or Bible trivia questions.

Instruction

- On the Candy Land game board, point out the path, comparing it to Jesus’ path that leads to Heaven.
- Ask: What happens if you veer off the path?
 - » Discuss things that may influence and tempt us to veer from Jesus’ path.
- Ask: What happens if you make it to the end of the path? *You win, eternal life.*
- Form teams to play the Candy Land game.
 - » For each round, teams compete to answer review or Bible trivia questions.
 - » For a correct answer, the team draws a card to move their piece along the game path.

Application: The path on this game reminds us we need to follow the path of salvation that leads to Heaven. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

Truth about God: Jesus is the way of truth that leads to eternal life.

MEMORY WORK

Series 2 Memory Verses: John 8:12; John 10:7; John 14:6; John 15:5

Supplies: Stuffed animal sheep and flashlight from lesson 2.2, small Bible, Series 2 MW poster **RKDR**

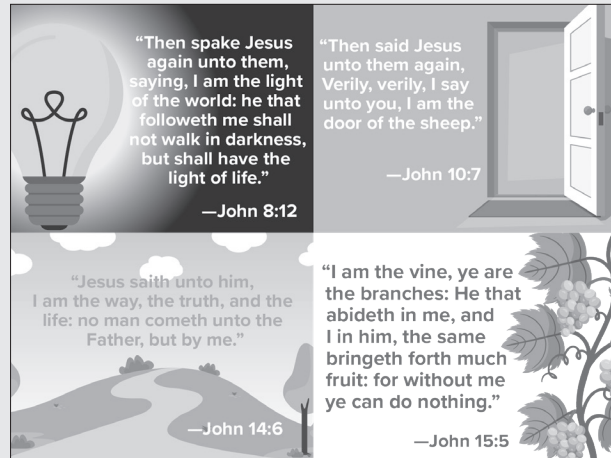
Preparation

- Use the sheep stuffed animal and flashlight from lesson 2.2. Also locate a small Bible students can easily handle. These will be used again in lesson 2.4.

Instruction

- Using the Series 2 MW poster **RKDR** review John 8:12 from lesson 2.1 and John 10:7 from lesson 2.2.
- Hold up the light and the sheep and say:* Jesus is the Light of the World and the door of the sheep.
- Hold up the small Bible and read John 14:6 from the poster: “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”
 - Say: Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.
 - Let students repeat this verse a few times.
- Have students sit in a circle on the floor.
- Play a song (from Worship) as students pass around the sheep, the flashlight, and the small Bible in different directions. When the music stops:
 - The student holding the flashlight stands and says John 8:12.
 - The student holding the sheep stands and says John 10:7.
 - The student holding the Bible stands and says John 14:6.
 - The last student to finish is out of the game.
- Start the music and pass around the items again. Continue until students are able to say the verses.
 - Congratulate all students for doing a good job.

Application: When we allow Jesus to show us the way, we will find truth and life. He helps us find solutions for our lives.



VIDEO REVIEW

- To review the Bible lesson, show one of the following videos:
 - “I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life - John 14 Bible Story for Kids” by ShareFaith Kids **QL**
 - “John 14:6 (Song with Lyrics)” by Big Big Worship **QL**
 - “I Am the Way (John 14:6)” by U-Nite TV **QL**
 - “Peter and John Arrested and before the Sanhedrin, Acts 4:1-22” by Jordan Rodriguez **QL**
 - “Peter and John Heal a Man” by LifeKids **QL**

WORSHIP

Supplies: Video Quick Links document **DR**

Instruction

- Play “One Way” by Hillsong Kids **QL**.
 - Pay special attention to the section calling Jesus “the way, the truth, and the life.”
- “Forever (I Am)” by PPH Kids Music **QL**
- “Me and My House” by PPH Kids Music **QL**
- “Something Happens” by James Wilson **QL**
- “Jesus” by Indiana Bible College **QL**
- “When I Speak Your Name” by Shara McKee & The Pentecostals of Katy **QL**

Application: Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. We should lift Him up in worship. Great things happen when we call His name.

Truth for My Life: I will recognize Jesus as the only way to salvation.

JBQ OPTION



Preparation

- Select one of the JBQ Games **DR**. Some games require additional props.
- Locate the JBQ Quiz(zes) **DR** that correspond with the current set(s) of verses being studied.

Instruction

- Distribute the current set of JBQ Verses **DR** to new students.
- Play the prepared game with students.
- If students have mastered the verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses **DR**. Otherwise let them study the same set of verses again for next week.

GAME OPTION

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Supplies: Game Stations **DR**, tape, small prizes, 3 craft sticks, marker, opaque cup

Preparation

- Print the Game Stations **DR** signs.
 - » Attach each sign to a different wall.
- On three craft sticks, write: THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE.
 - » Place the craft sticks in an opaque cup.

Instruction

- Point out the three different stations—The Way, The Truth, and The Life.
- For each round, students choose a station to stand by.
 - » Draw a craft stick. The students at that station stay in the game.
 - » The students at the other two stations must be seated until the next game.
 - » For each game, offer a small prize to the last remaining student.

Application: This game reminds us of the truth from John 14:6, when Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

CRAFT OPTION

Proof in the Bible

Supplies: Construction paper, Craft Shapes **DR**, scissors, markers, glue

Preparation

- For each student, print the Craft Shapes **DR**.

Instruction

- Let students cut out the Craft Shapes **DR**—a Bible, an arrow, a cross, and a heart.
- Have students glue the shapes onto a sheet of construction paper and label them.
 - » Label the arrow: The Way.
 - » Label the cross: The Truth.
 - » Label the heart: The Life.
- Somewhere on the paper, have students write the TAG: “Jesus is the way of truth that leads to eternal life.”
- Then let students decorate their papers.

Application: The Bible contains full proof that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

SNACK OPTION

One Way

Supplies: Several types of Oreo cookies, napkins, milk, cups

Preparation

- Create a display of various flavors of Oreo cookies.
- Pour one glass of milk.

Instruction

- Ask: What is the best flavor of Oreo cookie?
 - » Tally votes on the board.
- Ask: What is the best way to eat an Oreo—dunk it in milk, split it apart, or take one giant bite?
 - » Write students’ answers on the board.
- Before students pray and eat, share the application with them.
 - » Then let students enjoy a couple Oreos of their choice and a cup of milk.

Application: It’s fun to try a variety of Oreo cookies and eat them in many different ways. In life, we have many choices and ways to go. The most important choice we can ever make is our choice to follow Jesus. He is the one way to Heaven. He is the way of truth that leads to eternal life.

2.4

JESUS, THE TRUE VINE

John 15:1-17

SERIES AIM

To bolster faith in Jesus by studying His “I AM” statements in John’s Gospel.

SERIES MEMORY VERSES

John 8:12

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

John 10:7

“Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.”

John 14:6

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

John 15:5

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

BIBLE LESSON VERSE

John 15:5



TRUTH ABOUT GOD

Jesus is the true vine that makes life fruitful.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will stay close to Jesus so I can grow.

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read John 15:1-17. Prayerfully consider what this passage says:

ABOUT GOD

When Jesus said, “I am the vine,” He meant He is the connection to the source. A vine pumps life into its branches, which in turn produce fruit. To bear fruit, God’s people must stay connected, abiding in the vine. Without Jesus, we will not produce fruit.

TO YOU AS A TEACHER

In the grocery store, grapes stop growing because they have been cut from the vine. With no access to the source that once gave them life, they slowly wither and die. Is your ministry growing? If not, perhaps you have become too reliant on shortcuts, technology, or your own abilities. With humility and prayer, plug into God’s power and let Him breathe fresh life into your fruit-bearing ministry.

TO YOUR STUDENTS

Elementary students are growing in so many ways—physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Encourage your students to examine and evaluate their actions as they grow spiritually in a close relationship with Jesus. Students may find it difficult to accept the idea of complete surrender to Jesus. Submission to Jesus is much more than self-denial; it actually enhances a person’s self-worth.

SUPPLIES

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

- Grapes (Concord variety, if possible), crock pot, water
- Gardener costume
- *Per student:* Piece of fruit
- Attendance poster **(RKDR)**, stickers, Series 2 MW poster **(RKDR)**

Video Introduction

- “Planting Tomato Slice to Grow Tomatoes Time-Lapse” **(QL)**
- “Growing Cantaloupe Plant from Seed to Melon” **(QL)**

Opener

- Variety of vine fruits (e.g., tomatoes, grapes, watermelon, gooseberries, honeydew melon, cantaloupe, kiwi, dragon fruit, passion fruit, blackberries)

Opening Option 1

- Self-adhesive labels or strips of masking tape, marker
- Small prize or candy

Opening Option 2

- No supplies necessary

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Lesson Lead-In

- Tomatoes on the vine

Bible Lesson

- Clusters of grapes, 2 bowls, raisins
- New Birth poster **(RKDR)**, Series 2 MW poster **(RKDR)**, Series 3 MW poster **(RKDR)**, Bibles

APPLY AND ACT

- Stages of a Tomato Visuals **(RKDR)**
Option: Fruit seeds, “green” fruit, ripe fruit, rotten fruit

- New Birth poster **(RKDR)**

Application Option 1

- Open area

Application Option 2

- Butcher paper, green paper, purple paper, tape, scissors, markers, Series 3 MW poster **(RKDR)**

Prayer and Response

- *Optional:* Reward for Opening Option 1
- *Per student:* Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

Preparation

- Purchase fragrant Concord grapes.
 - » Pull a handful of grapes from the vine.
 - » Simmer the grapes in a crock pot with a small amount of water.
 - » Place the simmering crock pot out of students’ reach, letting the fragrance fill the room.
- Dress as a gardener to greet students.

Instruction

- As students arrive, give each student a piece of fruit “from your garden.”
 - » *Say:* Welcome to God’s Garden, a place where we grow, grow, grow in Jesus.
- Collect offering and record attendance.
- Review the Series 2 MW poster **(RKDR)**.
 - » *Say:* Today’s lesson will focus on John 15:5, when Jesus said, “I am the vine, ye are the branches.”
- Announce the TAG: “Jesus is the true vine that makes life fruitful.”

Application: Today we will learn about staying connected to Jesus so we can grow into strong Christians.

Video Introduction

- When it is time to get students’ attention, consider showing a time lapse video of a vine fruit growing, such as:
 - » “Planting Tomato Slice to Grow Tomatoes Time-Lapse” by Boxlapse **(QL)**
 - » “Growing Cantaloupe Plant from Seed to Melon” by eLapse **(QL)**.

Opener: Vine Fruit Taste Test

Preparation

- Gather vine-growing fruits for a taste test. Vine fruits include tomatoes, grapes, watermelon, gooseberries, honeydew melon, cantaloupe, kiwi, dragon fruit, passion fruit, and blackberries.
 - » For each fruit, have a whole fruit available for students to inspect.
 - » Prior to class, cut up fruit to avoid having knives around students.

At drop off, ask parents about any potential allergies.

Instruction

- *Ask:* Do you like fruit? What is your favorite?
- *Say:* Some fruits grow on trees. Other fruits grow on vines. Today we will talk about and taste fruits that grow on vines. You can decide which vine fruit is your favorite.
- For each fruit, let students handle and inspect the whole fruit before tasting the sample.
 - » *Ask:* Do you give this fruit a thumbs-up or a thumbs-down?

Application: These fruits grew on vines. In today's Bible story, we will learn how Jesus is the true vine and we are the branches that produce fruit. When we stay connected to Jesus, we will grow, grow, grow.

For additional Opening Options that use different teaching styles, see page 75:

- Option 1: Connected
- Option 2: Strong Connections

RELATE AND RECEIVE**Bible Lesson Verse**

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Lesson Lead-In*Preparation*

- Display tomatoes on the vine.

Instruction

- *Ask:* What do you know about tomatoes?
 - » *Say:* Tomatoes come in ten thousand different varieties with several different colors, such as red, pink, purple, yellow, white, and even black.
 - » *Say:* Tomatoes are technically a fruit, even though nutritionists often classify tomatoes as vegetables.
 - » *Say:* If you want the best, most flavorful tomatoes, leave them connected to the vine until the ripening process is complete.

Application: In the Bible lesson, we will learn what Jesus said about the importance of staying connected to the vine—not a green, leafy vine like a tomato vine, but a vine of life that only comes from Jesus.

Bible Lesson: Jesus, the True Vine (John 15:1–17)*Preparation*

- Gather a cluster of grapes. Wash them thoroughly for students to handle and eat.
- Put raisins in one of the bowls and place them out of sight.

Instruction

To teach the crowds, Jesus told stories called parables. A *parable* uses everyday things to explain a deeper spiritual idea. Amazingly, God's creation often reflects our relationship with Him. In John 15, Jesus wanted to teach the people about staying connected to Him. To teach them, Jesus taught a parable about vines and fruit.

Ask students to look up and read John 15:5: "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." Jesus compared Himself to a vine. He compared us to branches.

Truth for My Life: I will stay close to Jesus so I can grow.

Hold up a cluster of grapes. Grapes grow in a vineyard with rows of structures designed to support the vines. The vine is the main part of a grape plant. The branches connected to the vine carry nutrients from the vine to the clusters of fruit. *Place the cluster of grapes into a bowl and pass it around for students to sample. Instruct students to examine the stems as they pull off the grapes.*

The stems and branches of these grapes were once connected to a vine. When a stem or branch is disconnected from the vine, it can no longer grow and produce new fruit, and the current fruit stops growing.

- *Ask:* What happens when grapes are removed from the vine and left out in the sun?
» Show the bowl of raisins.

These raisins were once juicy grapes. Now they are shriveled. They are still sweet, but no longer juicy. Their living and growing days are over. They cannot sustain life or reproduce more life to keep the crop going. They are now only good for eating. *Pass the raisins around for students to taste.*

Jesus is our source of life. *Review the New Birth poster* **RKDR**. When we are born again, God's Holy Spirit attaches us to eternal, abundant life. Our connection to Jesus makes a way for us to grow spiritually strong. His power flows through us and produces the fruit of the Spirit.

Show and read the Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22–23).

We must stay connected to Jesus to find an abundant, fruitful life. Jesus feeds our souls and gives us strength to face problems and difficult circumstances. He leads us to use our talents and abilities for the glory of God. He also provides help with every area of our lives, including our relationships, our education, and our families.

Read John 15:5 from the Series 2 MW poster **RKDR**. "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). Becoming detached from the true vine would be eternally fatal for us.

Ask students to read John 15:10: "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." In this verse, Jesus said we must obey His commandments if we want to abide in His love. *Then have them read verse 11:* "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." Jesus said He wanted His abundant joy to fill our hearts as we remain close to Him.

Jesus longs to be close to us and to pour His power, grace, and love into our hearts. When we receive His love, the fruit we produce should be shared with others—like the grapes and raisins were shared during this lesson. Jesus wants us to let others know they can become attached to the true vine. There is plenty of room on the vine for more branches and more fruit.

Jesus gave His life for us. There is no greater love than His. He chose us to be attached to His vine. He wants us to love each other, produce the fruit of His Spirit, and share His love with others.

Review Questions

- On a grape plant, why does a branch need to stay connected to the vine?
- Name the fruit of the Spirit Jesus wants us to produce.
- What happens if we become disconnected from Jesus?
- Why do followers of Jesus need to obey His commandments?
- How will you stay close to Jesus?

APPLY AND ACT



Fully Grown

Preparation

- Cut apart the two-sided Stages of a Tomato visuals **RKDR**, or gather fruit in the four stages of ripeness—seed, green, ripe, and rotten.



Instruction

- *Show the tomato seeds visual and ask:* If I said we were going to eat tomatoes and then served you this, what would you say?
 - » *Say:* Seeds probably won't taste good, and they could hurt our stomachs. Seeds need to be planted so they can grow into good fruit.
- *Show the green tomatoes visual and ask:* Have you ever eaten fruit before it was ripe, while it was still "green"?
 - » When fruit is "green," it was plucked from the vine too soon and needed to stay connected a little longer.
- *Show the rotten tomatoes visual and ask:* If I served you these tomatoes, what would you say?
 - » *Say:* Rotten fruit has been away from the vine for too long. No one likes rotten fruit.
- *Show the ripe tomatoes visual and ask:* What do you think of perfectly ripe tomatoes or fruit?
- Show the New Birth poster **RKDR**.
 - » Discuss how repentance, baptism in the name of Jesus, and the infilling of the Holy Ghost connect us to Jesus.
- *Ask:* After we are born again, how can we connect and grow in Jesus?
 - » Answers include: going to church, reading the Bible every day, praying and talking to God regularly, giving time and resources to others and to the church, and worshipping Jesus in everything we do.



Application: Just as plants must change and grow, so must we. We cannot just stay as a seed. We must stay connected, grow, and produce spiritual fruit. Without growth, our fruit will become sour and turn others away from Jesus. We stay close to Him through prayer, studying God's Word, and listening to our leaders at church.

For additional Application Options that use different teaching styles, see page 75:

- Option 1: The Longest Vine
- Option 2: Making Vines

Prayer and Response

Instruction

- If you did Opening Option 1 (page 75), reward the student who has collected the greatest number of CONNECTED tags.
- Lead students in prayer.
 - » Thank Jesus for being the true vine.
 - » Worship Jesus and thank Him for life and for His love.
 - » Pray for students to stay connected to Jesus.
 - » Pray for the fruit of the Spirit to grow in every student's heart.
 - » Pray for spiritual, emotional, and mental growth.
 - » Invite students to pursue a stronger connection to God or connect for the first time through worship and surrender.
- Provide an opportunity for students to take turns praying over the class. By doing so, students will be strengthened in their faith. They will cultivate courage to share their faith outside the classroom.
- Send each student home with an Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page.

Truth for My Life: I will stay close to Jesus so I can grow.

OPENING OPTION 1

Connected

Preparation

- Use self-adhesive labels or strips of masking tape to create a name tag for each student.
 - » On each name tag, use a marker to write: CONNECTED.

Instruction

- Give each student a CONNECTED tag to wear.
- Instruct students not to say the names of any fruits or vegetables.
 - » If a student is caught saying a fruit or vegetable, the student who heard the mistake can take one of the other student's CONNECTED tags.
- At the end of class, reward the student who has collected the most tags with a small prize or candy.

Application: We must stay connected to Jesus, the true vine, at all times. Distractions and traps will threaten to disconnect us from the true vine. We must stay alert and focused. We should not let anything disconnect us from our life source—Jesus.

OPENING OPTION 2

Strong Connections

Instruction

- Challenge students to see how they are connected to each other.
- Students should talk to each other, looking for three things they have in common as followers of Jesus.
- Prompt students with cues about their relationship with Jesus.
 - » How old were you when you received the Holy Ghost?
 - » Can you quote the same Scripture?
 - » How long have you attended our church?
- If guests are present, add questions that include favorite foods, family pets, favorite games, and so on.

Application: It is not only important to stay connected to Jesus, but we must also stay close to our Christian friends to develop a strong and healthy spiritual life. We need each other to nurture and protect our relationship with Jesus.

APPLICATION OPTION 1

The Longest Vine

Instruction

- Clear an open space for students to spread out.
- Form teams of about four students; each team must have the same number of students.
- Tell teams they must create a vine by connecting to each other, and they are to see how long they can make their vine.
 - » Students can use anything they have on hand to lengthen their vine, but they must stay connected.
- The team with the longest vine wins.

Application: Jesus is the true vine. He has more than enough love and extra room on His vine for everyone. He wants us to grow abundantly and produce the fruit of His Spirit. Jesus has no limits.

APPLICATION OPTION 2

Making Vines

Preparation

- Using butcher paper, create a vine and branches on a wall.
- For each student:
 - » From green paper, cut out several five-inch leaves.
 - » From purple paper, cut ten one-inch grapes.

Instruction

- Distribute the grapes and leaves.
- Discuss the importance of prayer, studying the Bible, and listening to leaders at church.
- Showing God's love and compassion to others keeps us to Jesus.
- On each leaf, students write an "I will" statement. It should explain how and why they will stay close to Jesus. Encourage students to write from their hearts.
- On the grapes, students write the nine fruit of the Spirit. Provide the Series 3 MW poster (RK DR) as a reference.
- Then students tape the leaves and grapes to the butcher-paper vine.

Application: We must be intentional about staying connected to Jesus. It is our choice and our responsibility to develop personal habits of dedication. Spiritual growth happens when we stay close to Jesus.

Truth about God: Jesus is the true vine that makes life fruitful.

WORSHIP

Supplies: Purple balloons, Video Quick Links document **DR**

Preparation

- Inflate purple balloons to represent grapes.

Instruction

- Have students toss balloons in the air as they listen to the songs.
 - » “Forever (I Am)” by PPH Kids Music **QL**
 - » “Grow, Grow, Grow” by Jana Alayra **QL**
 - » “God Is the Vine” by New Vintage Kids **QL**
 - » “Proverbs 3 (Tablet of Your Heart)” by Urshan College **QL**
 - » “Dwell Songs - Abide” by Music Meets Heaven **QL**
 - » “Mighty God” by James Wilson **QL**

Application: Jesus is the true vine, the mighty God, and the Prince of Peace. When we recognize just how much we need Jesus, we will do everything possible to abide with Him.

CRAFT OPTION

A Fruity Masterpiece

Supplies: Powdered drink mix (various colors), small cups, water, paintbrushes, watercolor paper, wet wipes

Preparation

- Gather powdered drink mixes in various colors (blue, red, green, purple, and so on).
- In separate cups, mix the powder with a small amount of water to make a concentrated paste, like watercolor paints.

Instruction

- Give each student a sheet of watercolor paper and a paintbrush.
- Instruct students to use the colorful mixtures to create illustrations of a vine, branches, and fruit.
- After the illustrations dry, students will have a scratch-n-sniff painting to remind them of the Bible lesson.

Application: Jesus is the true vine that makes life fruitful. Our lives will be fruitful if we stay close to Jesus.

MEMORY WORK

Series 2 Memory Verses: John 8:12; John 10:7; John 14:6; John 15:5

Supplies: Toy tomato (or other toy fruit from a vine); small Bible, stuffed animal sheep, and flashlight from lesson 2.3; Series 2 MW poster **RKDR**

Preparation

- Use the sheep stuffed animal, flashlight, and small Bible from lesson 2.3. Also locate a toy tomato (or other toy fruit that grows on a vine).

Instruction

- Using the Series 2 MW poster **RKDR**:
 - » Review John 8:12 from lesson 2.1.
 - » Review John 10:7 from lesson 2.2.
 - » Review John 14:6 from lesson 2.3.
- *Hold up the light, sheep, and Bible, and say:* Jesus is the Light of the World, the door of the sheep, and the way, the truth, and the life.
- Hold up the toy tomato and read John 15:5 from the poster: “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”
 - » Say: Jesus is the vine, and we are His branches.
 - » Explain how the toy tomato (or other toy fruit) is a type of fruit that grows on a vine.
 - » Let students repeat this verse a few times.
- Have students sit in a circle on the floor.
- Play a song (from Worship) as students pass around the sheep, the light, the small Bible, and the toy tomato (or fruit). When the music stops:
 - » The student holding the flashlight stands and says John 8:12.
 - » The student holding the sheep stands and says John 10:7.
 - » The student holding the Bible stands and says John 14:6.
 - » The student holding the tomato (or fruit) stands and says John 15:5.
 - » The last student to finish is out of the game.
- Start the music and pass around the items again. Continue until students are able to say the verses.
 - » Congratulate students for doing a good job.

Application: Memorizing Scripture helps us stay connected to Jesus, the true vine, who makes life fruitful. With Him, we can grow and produce good fruit.

Truth for My Life: I will stay close to Jesus so I can grow.

JBQ OPTION

Preparation

- Select one of the JBQ Games **DR**. Some games require additional props.
- Locate the JBQ Quiz(zes) **DR** that correspond with the current set(s) of verses being studied.

Instruction

- Distribute the current set of JBQ Verses **DR** to new students.
- Play the prepared game with students.
- If students have mastered the verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses **DR**. Otherwise let them study the same set of verses again for next week.



GAME OPTION

Don't Let Go

Supplies: Whistle, supplies to complete each task (e.g., orange, sheets of paper, 5 paper clips, rubber band)

Instruction

- Pair up students.
 - » Instruct each pair to hold hands, while leaving one hand free.
- Using their free hand, students must work together to accomplish tasks.
 - » Peel an orange.
 - » Do jumping jacks.
 - » Fold a paper airplane.
 - » Cut out a paper heart.
 - » Connect five paper clips together.
 - » Roll two pieces of paper together and put a rubber band around them.
- If students let go of each other's hands, they must stand frozen in place like a dead branch until you blow a whistle.

Application: We must hold onto Jesus so we can live, grow, and produce the fruit of the Spirit.



SNACK OPTION

Watermelon Pizza

Supplies: Watermelon, small bowls with a variety of toppings (e.g., salt, sugar, candy sprinkles, pepper, chili powder, hot sauce, red pepper flakes, coconut flakes, melted chocolate, lemon slices, honey, shredded cheese, parmesan cheese), serving spoons, plates, napkins, drinks, cups

Preparation

- Cut watermelon into triangles like pizza slices.
- On a table, line up individual bowls of toppings with serving spoons.

Instruction

- For each student, place a watermelon slice on a plate.
- Instruct students to add toppings to their watermelon "pizzas."
- Encourage students to try new things and create something edible, not just a bizarre combo they won't eat.

Application: This was a great visual to encourage individuality. When we become Christians, we are all attached to the same vine, yet God created each person with unique personalities and talents. He loves each one of us. He wants us to stay connected to Him, grow, and become fruitful.

VIDEO REVIEW

- To review the Bible lesson, show one of the following videos:
 - » "I Am' the Vine and Branches Bible Story for Kids - John 15" by ShareFaith Kids **QL**
 - » "Vine and Branches" by LifeKids **QL**
 - » "Jesus, the True Vine • Slapstick Theater" by Saddleback Kids **QL**

FALL 2024 A LOOK AHEAD

Series 1

Jesus, Our Savior

To investigate Jesus' journey to the cross by studying John 11-13.

Series 2

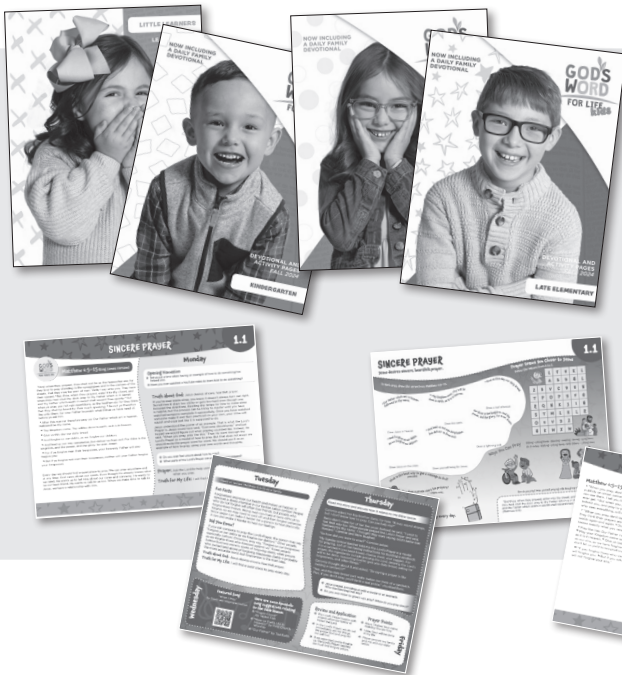
Salvation in Acts

To investigate God's plan of salvation by studying key passages in the Book of Acts.

Series 3

The Book of Romans

To investigate and apply key passages from the Book of Romans.



DEVOTIONAL AND ACTIVITY PAPERS

Kids love action, and the Devotional and Activity Pages give students a way to engage more deeply with each lesson's teaching concepts. In addition, it gives them something to take home so parents can reinforce what they learned in class with daily devotions to be done at home as a family. If you're not yet using the Devotional and Activity Pages, these colorful supplements make a great addition to your teaching resources.

RESOURCE KIT

Teaching is so much more fulfilling when you have the right tools and digital resources. The Resource Kit for each level is packed with supplemental videos, art, and activity items to help you bring each lesson to life.



For questions or support, contact
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EASY ORDERING GUIDE



The following guide offers a simple way of determining the curriculum resources you need. Use the prompts below to calculate the materials to order or to pass on to the person who places your order.

LITTLE LEARNERS		
How many group(s) or class(es) do you have for toddlers who have not yet entered preschool?		= Number of Little Learners Resource Kits You Need
How many leaders, teachers, or volunteers do you have for students in these classes?		= Number of Little Learners Leader Guides You Need
How many students are part of these group(s) or class(es)?		= Number of Little Learners Devotional and Activity Pages You Need
KINDERGARTEN		
How many group(s) or class(es) do you have for children who are currently in preschool or Kindergarten?		= Number of Kindergarten Resource Kits You Need
How many leaders, teachers, or volunteers do you have for students in these classes?		= Number of Kindergarten Leader Guides You Need
How many students are part of these group(s) or class(es)?		= Number of Kindergarten Devotional and Activity Pages You Need
EARLY ELEMENTARY		
How many group(s) or class(es) do you have for children who are in first through third grades?		= Number of Early Elementary Resource Kits You Need
How many leaders, teachers, or volunteers do you have for students in these classes?		= Number of Early Elementary Leader Guides You Need
How many students are part of these group(s) or class(es)?		= Number of Early Elementary Devotional and Activity Pages You Need
LATE ELEMENTARY		
How many group(s) or class(es) do you have for children who are in fourth through sixth grades?		= Number of Late Elementary Resource Kits You Need
How many leaders, teachers, or volunteers do you have for students in these classes?		= Number of Late Elementary Leader Guides You Need
How many students are part of these group(s) or class(es)?		= Number of Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Pages You Need
MOVE!		
MOVE! is the children's church curriculum for God's Word for Life. It comes as a printed Leader Guide with digital Activity Pages and resources. The first Leader Guide is \$39.99. Each additional Leader Guide is \$9.99.		
How many leaders, teachers, or volunteers do you have for children's church?		= Number of MOVE! Leader Guides You Need

Did you know? You can set up recurring orders so curriculum is automatically sent to your church each quarter.

Learn more at pentecostalpublishing.com/recurringorders

THE FRUIT OF FAITH

Matthew 21:18-22; Mark 11:12-14, 20-25

SERIES AIM

To examine how God wants the fruit and gifts of the Spirit to operate in our lives.

SERIES MEMORY VERSES

Galatians 5:22-23, KJV

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Galatians 5:22-23, NLT

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"

BIBLE LESSON VERSE

Matthew 21:22

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."



TRUTH ABOUT GOD

Jesus is looking for the fruit of our faith.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will bear fruit and have faith.

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read Matthew 21:18-22 and Mark 11:12-14, 20-25. Prayerfully consider what these passages say:

ABOUT GOD

From a distance, the fig tree looked fruitful. Upon closer inspection, Jesus found it was all leaves and no fruit. Jesus used the fig tree as a metaphor for the Pharisees' religiosity. While their adornment and rituals made them look like great men of God, Jesus found their spiritual walk to be fruitless. Jesus cursed the fruitless fig tree so that it withered into nothing.

TO YOU AS A TEACHER

Fruit takes time to blossom. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Has God made you a promise that hasn't yet come to fruition? The fruit of our faith is believing God will do what He says He will do, even if we haven't seen it yet. Praise Him for being a promise-keeping God. The fruit will come.

TO YOUR STUDENTS

During this lesson, inquisitive students may wonder why Jesus would curse a healthy fig tree. Although the tree may have been healthy, it was not producing fruit. Explain the importance of spiritual fruit in God's kingdom. We must bear fruit. When we meet people who are spiritually hungry and need Jesus, if they cannot find the fruit of God's Spirit in our lives, we have missed an opportunity to nourish and minister to them. Show students II Timothy 4:2, which encourages us to be ready to preach the Word at all times.

SUPPLIES

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

- Fake trees
- Attendance poster **RKDR**, stickers, Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**

Video Introduction

- “Washington State Apple Harvest” **QL**
- “So Fresh Vegetables and Fruits” **QL**
- “Mulberries Fruit Harvesting” **QL**
- “Beautiful Nature with Rural Life” **QL**

Opener

- Fresh or dried figs (to serve), plate, Fig visual **RKDR**
- Fruits of Faith and Forgiveness **RKDR**, fake tree, hole punch, yarn

Opening Option 1

- Clear cup of plain water, clear cup of sparkling water

Opening Option 2

- Can of fruit, handheld can opener

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Lesson Lead-In

- “Fig Tree Growing from Seed: Time Lapse 145 Days” **QL**

Bible Lesson

- “The Case of Fig Tree” scripts **RKDR**, fake tree, 3 biblical costumes, hat, sunglasses, clipboard, paper, pen, Bibles
- *Option:* Alternative Bible Lesson 3.1 **RKDR**, fake tree, Bibles

APPLY AND ACT

- No supplies necessary

Application Option 1

- Posterboard, markers, colored paper rectangles, tape
- New Birth poster **RKDR**

Application Option 2

- *Per student:* Paper, crayons
- “That’s What Jesus Does” **QL**

Prayer and Response

- *Per student:* Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

Preparation

- If you plan to have students memorize Galatians 5:22–23 for memory work, decide whether you will have them memorize the King James Version (KJV) or the New Living Translation (NLT). Then use the appropriate side of the Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**.
- Locate artificial trees to place around the classroom.

Instruction

- As students enter, collect offering and record attendance.
- *Say:* Welcome to God’s Orchard, a place where we grow in Jesus.
- Using the Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**, introduce Galatians 5:22–23.
- Introduce the TAG: “Jesus is looking for the fruit of our faith.”

Application: Last week (in lesson 2.4), we learned about fruit that grows on vines. Today we will learn about fruit that grows on trees. God created many types of fruit trees to provide food for us. God created us to grow fruit too—not figs, oranges, or apples, but the fruit of God’s Spirit—which includes faith, love, and faithfulness. Jesus is looking for spiritual fruit in our lives.

Video Introduction

- When it is time to get students’ attention, consider showing one of the following videos about harvesting fruit:
 - » “Washington State Apple Harvest” by SuperFreshGrowers **QL**
 - » “So Fresh Vegetables and Fruits - Rural Life” by MP Fresh **QL**
 - » “Mulberries Fruit Harvesting” by Gardening and Bonsai **QL**
 - » “Beautiful Nature with Rural Life (P23) - Fresh Fruit Picking” by Mashi-Rural Life **QL**

Opener: Fruits of Faith

Preparation

- Place an artificial tree in the teaching area.
 - » Cut apart the Fruits of Faith and Forgiveness **RKDR**.
 - » Punch a hole in each piece of fruit and use yarn to tie each one to a branch.
- Find fresh or dried figs, slice them up, and place them on a plate to serve.



**Instruction**

- *Surprise students with a riddle:* When can you go on red and stop on green?
» *Answer:* When you are eating watermelon.
- *Ask:* What is your favorite type of fruit?
- Show the Fig visual **RKDR**.
 - » If you have figs, pass them around for students to smell and taste.
 - » Ask them to describe the aroma.
 - » *Say:* Most fruit trees produce blossoms before fruit grows. Fig trees form the fruit first and then blossoms grow inside the fruit.
- *Say:* When Jesus lived on earth, He lived in an area of Israel where many fig trees grow. He used an example of a fig tree to teach His followers about growing spiritual fruit. Jesus wants the fruit of faith and forgiveness to grow in our lives.
- Ask one student at a time to remove a fruit shape from the tree and read it aloud.
 - » Let students decide if the statement shows the fruit of forgiveness or the fruit of faith.

Application: Jesus is looking for evidence of our faith. He wants to see faith and forgiveness growing in our lives.

For additional Opening Options that use different teaching styles, see page 85:

- Option 1: Sparkling Faith
- Option 2: Where's the Fruit?

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Bible Lesson Verse

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22).

Lesson Lead-In

Instruction

- Play the YouTube video "Fig Tree Growing from Seed: Time Lapse 145 Days" **QL**.
- *Say:* Fig trees have huge leaves.
- *Ask:* Did you know fig trees were located in the Garden of Eden way back in the Book of Genesis? How did Adam and Eve use fig leaves? (See Genesis 3:7)
 - » *Say:* When Adam and Eve sinned, they made clothes out of giant fig leaves.

Application: In the Bible lesson, a leafy fig tree became a very important object lesson for the followers of Jesus.

Bible Lesson: Jesus and the Fig Tree (Matthew 21:18–22; Mark 11:12–14, 20–25)

Preparation

- This lesson can be presented as a story or as a skit. If you choose not to do this skit, an Alternative Bible Lesson 3.1 **RKDR** is located in the resource kit.
- Choose five actors to play the parts of Jesus, the Detective, Matthew, Mark, and the Fig Tree.
 - » Have the Fig Tree actor speak from behind a fake tree.
 - » Give biblical costumes to Jesus, Matthew, and Mark.
 - » The Detective can wear a hat and eyeglasses while holding a clipboard with paper and a pen.

Truth for My Life: I will bear fruit and have faith.

The Case of the Fig Tree

The scene starts with the Fig Tree (fake tree and actor) lying on the floor groaning in pain. Matthew and Mark stand over the Fig Tree looking distraught. The Detective enters with brisk authority.

DETECTIVE: OK, everyone. Stand back! I'm Detective (Name) with the Jerusalem Police Department. I am here to investigate the case of the fig tree. He appears to be a victim of foul play. *Fig Tree rolls in pain.* Are you Matthew and Mark? *Matthew and Mark nod in agreement.* Excellent. You two already gave a written statement. I would like each of you, in your own words, to describe the events. Mark, let's begin with you.

MARK: So, I wasn't there, but the disciples told me about it. On that day, the disciples were leaving the city of Bethany. As Jesus walked with them, He said He was hungry. Then He pointed at the fig tree. *Point at Fig Tree.*

DETECTIVE: Was the fig tree alive when Jesus spotted him?

MARK: Oh, yes. He was standing tall with green, leafy branches. *Fig Tree groans.* So Jesus went up to the fig tree to pick some fruit, but the fig tree didn't have any—none at all, only leaves.

FIG TREE: (*Defensively*) I was getting ready to grow fruit. Someday I will. I've just been so busy.

MARK: Jesus was disappointed. He told the fig tree no one would ever find fruit on his branches again. After that, everyone left without thinking about what Jesus said. Then the next day, when the disciples returned from Jerusalem, they found the fig tree like this. *Point at Fig Tree.* It was dried up from the roots.

FIG TREE: (*Groan.*) Oh, my precious roots.

DETECTIVE: Thank you, Mark. Next witness, please. Matthew, please tell us in your own words what happened.

MATTHEW: I remember it was in the morning. We all had stayed with Jesus in the city of Bethany overnight. In the morning, Jesus saw the fig tree.

Jesus was hungry so He walked up to the fig tree to pick some fruit. The fig tree didn't have any figs to give Jesus. It was as if he wasn't even a fig tree.

FIG TREE: I am a fig tree! Just because I don't grow fruit doesn't mean I'm not a fig tree. Didn't you see my bushy, green leaves?

MATTHEW: Jesus told the fig tree no fruit would grow on his branches . . . forever. That's when the fig tree just withered away. *Fig Tree groans.*

DETECTIVE: Did anyone else see this happen?

MATTHEW: Yes. There were other disciples with us. They were also surprised at how fast the fig tree withered away. *Fig Tree groans.*

DETECTIVE: Thanks for your reports, gentlemen. It seems we need to interview Jesus. Is Jesus here? Jesus stands.

FIG TREE: Oh no! Ahhhh! *Roll in pain.*

DETECTIVE: Jesus, can You explain what happened?

JESUS: If you have faith, not only can you do what I did to this fig tree, but you can also tell mountains to move into the sea. In all things, be sure to ask in prayer, believing, and you will receive it.

DETECTIVE: OK, everyone. Case closed! Nothing else to see here. Move along. Matthew and Mark, drag this dead tree out of the way. *Matthew and Mark drag off Fig Tree as he groans in agony.*

It was a sad ending for the fig tree. The story of the fig tree is in the Bible because Jesus wanted to show His disciples, and us, just how important it is to grow spiritual fruit. Jesus wants to see faith growing in our lives. He wants us to trust Him. Jesus also reminded His disciples about forgiveness. He said, "When you're praying for faith, forgive others. If you don't forgive, you won't be forgiven."

Jesus is looking for the fruit of faith in our lives. He will find it when we follow His instructions, pray, and forgive.

Review Questions

- Why was Jesus disappointed when He didn't find any fruit on the fig tree?
- Why is the story of the fig tree in the Bible?
- Why is faith important to Jesus?
- Why should we have the fruit of faith in their lives?
- Why can't the fruit of faith grow if we don't forgive others?
- What will you do to make sure you grow spiritual fruit in your life?

APPLY AND ACT

Growing Faith and Forgiveness

Instruction

- As a class, say the TML: “I will bear fruit and have faith.”
- *Ask:* What does a tree need to grow and bear fruit? *Soil, water, and sunlight*
- *Ask:* As Christians, what do we need to grow and bear fruit? *Forgive others, go to church, read the Bible, pray, give to others and to the church, and worship God.*
- Have students role-play real-life scenarios that might test a student’s walk with Jesus. In each scenario, how would a non-Christian react? How would a Christian react?
 - » You are in the lunch line at school, and someone pushes you out of line and takes your spot.
 - » You are in the lunch line at school, and you see someone push a smaller child out of line and take his spot.
 - » While playing your favorite VR (virtual reality) game, another player comes up to you talking trash.
 - » You hear your friends gossiping about another student in school.
 - » You saw a friend get the Holy Ghost at church, but then at school your friend is not acting like a Christian.

Application: In these situations, it would be easy to say or do something we shouldn’t, but Jesus wants us to act differently. He is looking for the fruit of our faith. That does not mean tomatoes will sprout out of our heads. It means we must be careful how we act and react in challenging situations. We must remember to let others see our good fruit, knowing God is with us in every situation.

For additional Application Options that use different teaching styles, see page 85:

- Option 1: A Strong Foundation
- Option 2: Teaching to Forgive

Prayer and Response

Instruction

- If you have not prayed about forgiveness, start prayer by helping students forgive others as they want to be forgiven.
 - » Pray for students to bear fruit and have faith.
 - » Pray for students who need the Holy Spirit.
 - » Pray for the church to have greater faith and to bear good fruit.
- Send each student home with an Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page.

OPENING OPTION 1

Sparkling Faith

Instruction

- Fill one clear cup with plain water.
- Fill another clear cup with sparkling water.
- Let students observe the cups.
- Ask: What differences do you see between the two cups?
 - » Hopefully, students will notice the bubbles, sparkles, or movement in the sparkling water.
- Compare the sparkling water to a life of faith.

Application: Without Jesus, we are like the plain glass of water. When Jesus fills us with His Holy Spirit, He gives us the spiritual fruit of faith. He enhances our lives with sparkles of love, faithfulness, and joy.

APPLICATION OPTION 1

A Strong Foundation

Preparation

- On a posterboard, draw a simple tree outline including the roots. Post it on a wall.
- Cut small rectangles of colored paper.
 - » Have markers and tape ready.

Instruction

- Say: Our spiritual life can be compared to a tree. A healthy tree stands tall and strong when it has a good root system—its foundation. If it is a fruit tree, it should blossom and bear fruit.
- Discuss how the New Birth poster **RKD** shows how our spiritual lives begin.
 - » On a rectangle cutout, write: ACTS 2:38. Ask a student to tape it under the tree (the foundation).
- Say: After we are born again, Jesus wants our spiritual selves to keep growing.
- Discuss spiritual habits that make up a strong Christian life. Have students write their ideas on cutouts and tape them under the tree.
 - » Ideas include faith, forgiveness, daily prayer, walking away when feeling angry, using kind words, memorizing Bible verses, attending church, telling others about Jesus, and listening to worship music.

Application: Every time we practice things that please Jesus, our spiritual roots grow deeper and we become stronger Christians. As we grow in faith, we will produce spiritual fruit.

OPENING OPTION 2

Where's the Fruit?

Preparation

- Prior to class, carefully open and empty out a can of fruit.
 - » Then place the top back on so it looks unopened.

Instruction

- Ask: Is anyone else hungry?
- Say: I'm so hungry. I have this can of fruit with me. I simply love (*fruit*). I cannot wait to eat it with you. Let's open this can and have a little snack.
- Using a handheld can opener, pretend you are opening the can for the first time.
 - » Act shocked when you find the can empty.
- Say: This can is empty! I was really looking forward to that fruit. I'm so disappointed. Where could it be?

Application: Before we opened the can, we thought there would be fruit in there for us to eat. In today's Bible story, we will learn how Jesus is expecting to find the fruit of the Spirit in us.

APPLICATION OPTION 2

Teaching to Forgive

Instruction

- For privacy, have students spread out in the classroom. Give each student paper and crayons.
- Say: Before our prayers can produce spiritual fruit, Jesus said we need to forgive first. How do we do this?
- Say: Has anyone or anything made you mad, sad, or angry? As I play a song, draw anything that comes to your mind.
 - » As students draw, play the song "That's What Jesus Does" by Shara McKee **QL**.
- *Once students have finished, say:* Now we need to forgive. Hold up your drawings to God and repeat after me: "Jesus, I have drawn some things that make me upset. Before I can pray, I need to forgive. Please help me to let go of my sadness or anger. I give these situations to You. In Jesus' name, amen."
 - » Have students crumple their drawings and throw them into the trash.

Application: Once we forgive, we can pray in faith for big things (like moving mountains). Jesus is looking for the fruit of our faith. When we forgive, our faithful prayers can bear spiritual fruit.

WORSHIP

Supplies: Video Quick Links document **DR**

Instruction

- As you play “Wait on the Lord” by James Wilson **QL**, discuss how the song mentions there is not a mountain too tall; Jesus will get involved. Worship believing that God will take care of everything we need.
- “Fruit of the Spirit (King James Version)” by PPH Kids Music **QL**
- “Makin’ Me Whole” by PPH Kids Music **QL**
- “F.A.I.T.H.” by Ken Blount **QL**
- “God Unstoppable” by Brittani Scott **QL**
- “For My Good” with lyrics by Urshan College **QL**
- “Have Your Way” by Draylin Young **QL**

Application: Worship keeps us close to God so our faith and forgiveness can grow.

SNACK OPTION

Sensory Fruit

Supplies: Variety of tree-growing fruits (e.g., apples, pears, avocados, peaches, plums, pomegranates, cherries, figs, lemons, bananas, olives, oranges), small plates, napkins, drinks, cups, “Fruit Song for Kids” by The Singing Walrus **QL**; *optional:* blindfolds

Preparation

- Cut up various types of tree-growing fruits into bite-size pieces.

Instruction

- Play “Fruit Song for Kids” by The Singing Walrus **QL**.
- Let students use their senses to explore each type of fruit.
 - » Ask: What does it look like? How does it feel? What does it smell like? What does it taste like?
 - » Ask: What sound do you hear when you bite into it?
- Ask: How do you know if the fruit is fresh or rotten?
- Consider playing a game to see if blindfolded students can name the fruit.

Application: God created fruit for us to eat. He also created us to produce spiritual fruit as we put our faith in Him. Jesus is looking for the fruit of our faith.

MEMORY WORK

Series 3 Memory Verses: Galatians 5:22–23

Supplies: Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**, construction paper, marker

Preparation

- Decide whether students will learn the memory verses in the KJV or the NLT.
 - » Based on your decision, show the appropriate side of the Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**. One side shows the verses in KJV; the other has the NLT.
- Then based on your decision, write the following words in large letters on construction paper (one word per paper):
 - » *KJV:* LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING, GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEEKNESS, and TEMPERANCE.
 - » *NLT:* LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, and SELF-CONTROL.

Instruction

- Show the appropriate side of the Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**.
- Have students sit on the floor in a circle.
 - » Give each student or pair of students a sheet of paper with a verse word.
- Say the verses together.
 - » Students raise their verse word when it is called.
- After reading through the verses a few times, discuss what each verse word means.

Application: Jesus is looking for the fruit of His Spirit in our lives. When we are full of the Holy Ghost, others will see spiritual fruit in our lives.

VIDEO REVIEW

- To review the Bible lesson, show one of the following videos:
 - » “A Lesson from a Fig Tree (Mark 11:19–26) by CartoonBible **QL**
 - » “The Cursing of the Barren Fig Tree Bible Story” by Rocksolid Cartoon Bible Stories **QL**
 - » “The Withered Fig Tree” by FCBH Gospel Films **QL**

Truth for My Life: I will bear fruit and have faith.

JBQ OPTION

Preparation

- Select one of the JBQ Games **DR**. Some games require additional props.
- Locate the JBQ Quiz(zes) **DR** that correspond with the current set(s) of verses being studied.

Instruction

- Distribute the current set of JBQ Verses **DR** to new students.
- Play the prepared game with students.
- If students have mastered the verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses **DR**. Otherwise let them study the same set of verses again for next week.



GAME OPTION

Fruit Flip

Supplies: 50 or more plastic cups, timer

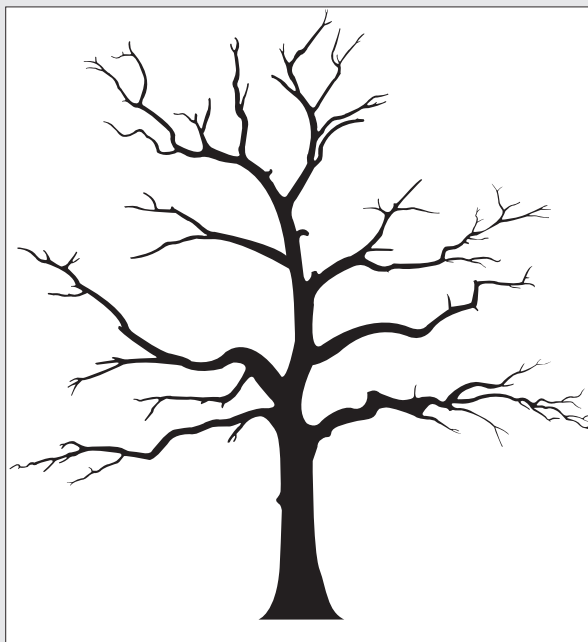
Preparation

- In a large open space, lay out the cups on the floor with half of the cups standing upright and half upside down.

Instruction

- Choose two students to compete head-to-head.
- Give one student the job of turning all the cups upside down; give the other student the job of turning all the cups right side up.
 - » Say: The first student to get all the cups turned in his or her assigned direction wins.
- Set a timer for one minute.
 - » Let students have fun; likely they will finally realize no one can win.
- When the timer buzzes, change the instructions: both students work together to turn all the cups right side up.
- Ask: Why is it important to work together with other Christians as we grow in faith?
 - » Discuss the benefits of praying together, helping one another learn Bible verses, and supporting one another in spiritual growth.

Application: We can produce more spiritual fruit when we work together with other believers.



CRAFT OPTION

Fruit Surprise

Supplies: Tree for Craft **RKDR**, white cardstock (1 sheet per student), white crayon, watercolor painting supplies

Preparation

- For each student, print the Tree for Craft **RKDR** on white cardstock.
 - » Then use a white crayon to draw invisible fruit hanging under each tree's branches.

Instruction

- Without saying anything about the invisible fruit, encourage students to paint their trees with watercolor paint. The white crayon will resist the paint and reveal the fruit.
- Ask: Why was Jesus upset when He searched the fig tree in the Bible lesson?
- Say: Jesus wants fruit trees to grow fruit. Jesus also wants Christians to grow spiritual fruit, like faith and forgiveness.
 - » Ask: Do all trees have the same amount of fruit?
- Say: We should not compare our faith to others. Jesus provides just the right amount of faith for each of us. It is our job to let our faith grow.
 - » Discuss how prayer, studying the Bible, and listening at church help us grow in faith.

Application: Jesus is looking for the fruit of our faith. He wants our faith and forgiveness to grow. We will bear fruit and have faith.

3.2

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:16–26

SERIES AIM

To examine how God wants the fruit and gifts of the Spirit to operate in our lives.

SERIES MEMORY VERSES

Galatians 5:22–23, KJV

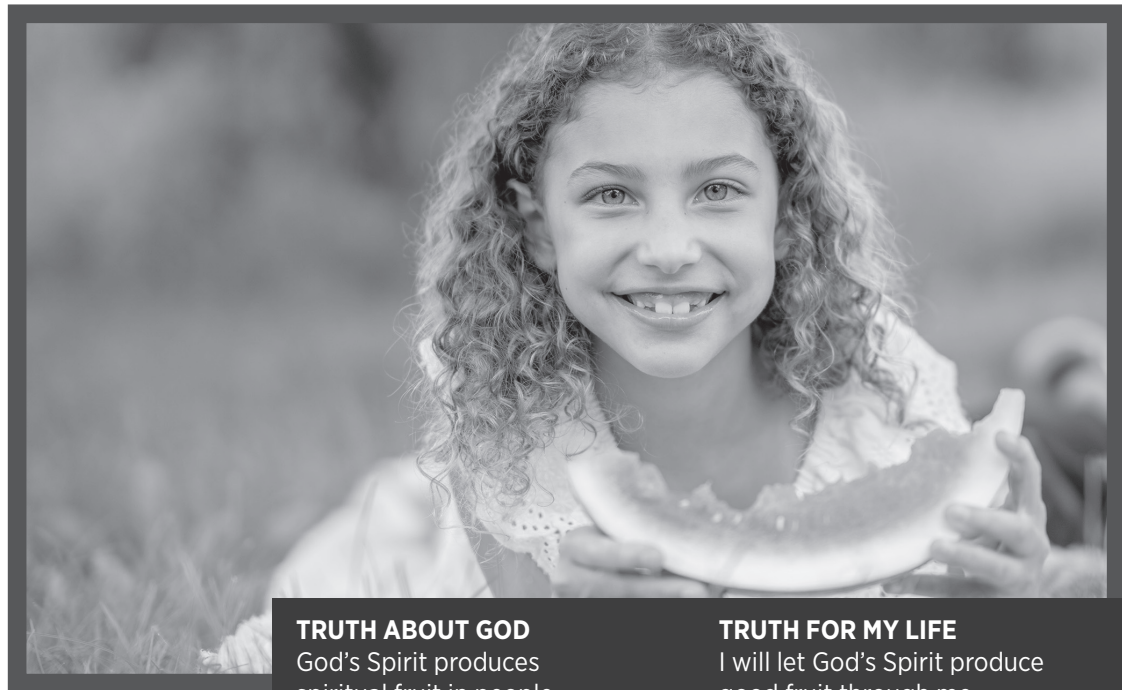
“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22–23, NLT

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!”

BIBLE LESSON VERSES

Galatians 5:22–23



TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God's Spirit produces spiritual fruit in people.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will let God's Spirit produce good fruit through me.

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read Galatians 5:16–26. Prayerfully consider what this passage says:

ABOUT GOD

The positive qualities of love, joy, and patience can be produced by pure human will. Many people try to have these qualities. In comparison, the fruit of the Spirit are not natural; rather, they are a supernatural manifestation of fruit produced by God's Spirit working in us. God's perfect fruit will only be produced over time with trust and faith as God nurtures us through life's trials.

TO YOU AS A TEACHER

Ask God to show you any areas of your life that are lacking the fruit of the Spirit. When situations test us, God wants us to display His fruit. Is longsuffering accompanied by grumbling? Does patience come with sighs and groans? According to Hebrews 12:2, Jesus found joy as He endured the cross, and His love was a sacrificial love. Pray for God to help you display His fruit at all times.

TO YOUR STUDENTS

Some of your late-elementary students may be exhibiting obnoxious attitudes that can frustrate parents and teachers. It is normal for students to struggle with feelings because of the physical and emotional changes they are experiencing. God understands. At the same time, God offers supernatural power to help students manage their attitudes and actions. Encourage students to receive the Holy Ghost and then to let God's Spirit produce good fruit in their lives.

SUPPLIES

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

- *A Fruitful Life* MP3 Collection **DR**
- Fruit-scented room spray
- Attendance poster **RKDR**, stickers, Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**

Video Introduction

- “Fruit of the Spirit” **QL**
- “Kindness” **QL**
- “K-I-N-D” **QL**

Opener

- “Good or Rotten?” Apples **RKDR**, whole apple, knife, cutting board, apple slices (to serve), napkins

Opening Option 1

- Apple, plate, knife, whiteboard and marker

Opening Option 2

- Small bowl of sliced fruit, spoon, vacuum cleaner with fairly full dust receptacle or bag

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Lesson Lead-In

- No supplies necessary

Bible Lesson

- Fruit of the Spirit prompts **RKDR**, New Birth poster **RKDR**, Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**, Bibles

APPLY AND ACT

- *Per student:* Galatians 5:16–26 Summaries **RKDR**

Application Option 1

- No supplies necessary

Application Option 2

- Fruity Role-Play Scenarios **RKDR**

Prayer and Response

- *Per student:* Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Some of the activities in this lesson will vary depending on which translation of Galatians 5:22–23 you decide to teach—King James Version (KJV) or New Living Translation (NLT). Use the appropriate side of the Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**.

- In the KJV, the fruit of the Spirit are listed as love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.
- In the NLT, the fruit of the Spirit are listed as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

Preparation

- Prepare to play the *A Fruitful Life* MP3 songs **DR**, originally from *A Fruitful Life* by Kids Power Hour.
 - » Songs include: “The Holy Ghost in Me,” “The Lord’s Fruit Troop,” “Love Makes the World Go ‘Round,” “Joy,” “Peace Down in My Heart,” “Longsuffering,” “To Be Kind,” “I Want to Be Good,” “A Fruitful Life,” and “Walk in the Spirit.”
- Spritz the air with a fruit scent.

Instruction

- Play *A Fruitful Life* MP3s **DR** in the background as students arrive.
- Record attendance and collect offering.
- Review the Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**—Galatians 5:22–23.
- Introduce the TAG: “God’s Spirit produces spiritual fruit in people.”

Application: Today we will learn that when we are filled with the Holy Ghost, God’s Spirit will produce good things in us.

Video Introduction

- When it is time to get students’ attention, consider showing a video about kindness, such as:
 - » “Fruit of the Spirit (King James Version)” by PPH Kids Music **QL**
 - » “Kindness” by The Juicebox Jukebox **QL**
 - » “K-I-N-D” by Stephanie Leavell and Music for Kiddos **QL**

Opener: An Apple a Day

Preparation

- Cut apart the apples on the “Good or Rotten?” Apples **RKDR**.

Instruction

- *Ask:* What do you think this saying means: “An apple a day keeps the doctor away”?
» *Say:* Eating apples can help you to be healthy so you wouldn't have to go to the doctor as much.
- One at a time, show the “Good or Rotten?” Apples **RKDR**.
» *Ask:* Would you want to eat this apple? Why or why not?
- *Say:* Yuck! People do not like to eat rotten apples. Sometimes rotten apples might have worms in them. Who wants to eat a worm?
- *Show a real apple and ask:* Would you want to eat this apple if I told you I found it in the garbage? . . . No, it would not be nice for me to give you food from the garbage. I would never do that, and Jesus would never do that because Jesus is good and kind.
- Serve apple slices to students.
- *Ask:* Do you like it when other people are good and kind to you?
- *Ask:* Do you like to be good and kind to other people?

Application: When we receive the Holy Ghost, spiritual fruit begins to grow in our lives. That fruit will keep our spiritual bodies healthy.

For additional Opening Options that use different teaching styles, see page 93:

- Option 1: Do the Math
- Option 2: Don't Ruin the Fruit

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Bible Lesson Verse

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22–23).

Lesson Lead-In

Instruction

- Ask a few students to share experiences of receiving love, kindness, or patience from another person.
- Ask a few students to share experiences of being bullied, criticized, or mocked.

Application: Think about the comparison of good and bad experiences. God knows people everywhere will benefit if His followers demonstrate the fruit of His Spirit. That is why this lesson is in the Bible.

Bible Lesson: The Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:16–26)

Preparation

- Cut apart the Fruit of the Spirit prompts **RKDR**.
» Stack the prompts in the order they will be discussed in the lesson.

Instruction

- Ask students to look up Galatians 5:16–26 in their Bibles.
- Choose a student to hold up the corresponding Fruit of the Spirit prompt as you discuss each one.

In the last lesson (3.1), what happened when Jesus saw the fig tree? Jesus was *hangry* and wanted some fruit. He was unhappy when He did not find any fruit on the tree. Today we will look at a different kind of fruit: the fruit of the Spirit.

Truth for My Life: I will let God's Spirit produce good fruit through me.

Show the New Birth poster (RKDR). After you receive the Holy Ghost, you will grow in the fruit of the Spirit. Using the Series 3 MW poster (RKDR), read Galatians 5:22–23. These fruits are supernatural and come from God. God wants each of us to have His Spirit and bear His fruit in our lives.

Show the LOVE prompt. God is love. He wants us to love others, regardless of their appearance, attitude, or behavior. God wants us to love everyone, even people who aren't nice, and even if we don't agree with them. Showing God's love requires His Spirit because we show His love in situations where people may not expect it, like showing love to our enemies or to those who are suffering or struggling. Being filled with God's love may not be convenient, but it is always necessary.

Show the JOY prompt. God wants us to experience His joy in all situations. This requires His Spirit because we will rejoice when people least expect it, like when we are going through a hardship. By keeping our eyes on our heavenly reward, nothing can steal His joy from our hearts. God gave us the ability to rejoice through any situation here on earth.

Show the PEACE prompt. God's peace is amazing and far beyond our understanding. We can rest in His loving care, knowing He will always take care of us—even when life gets really hard. God's peace soothes our feelings if we are bullied at school. God's peace surrounds us when a loved one passes away. God is always with us to give us His peace.

Show the LONGSUFFERING and PATIENCE prompt. Who enjoys being patient? . . . No one. Maybe that is why God wants us to exhibit this fruit. It shows we are truly filled with His Spirit when we can go through a long, hard situation and still keep our love, peace, and joy. When we pray, God gives us patience to wait for things we wish we could have right now, and He gives us a good attitude while we are waiting. God helps us trust Him as we wait.

Show the GENTLENESS and KINDNESS prompt. God's kindness is more than just being nice to people. God's kindness includes the ability to be kind to people who don't deserve it. God's Holy Spirit helps us to show kindness, especially when people are mean to us. God's kindness changes lives. It is easy to be nice sometimes, but a lifestyle of kindness at all times comes from God's Spirit.

Show the GOODNESS prompt. This fruit of the Spirit helps us make wise choices and do the right thing. It helps us to be honest and truthful when we may be tempted to do otherwise.

Show the FAITH and FAITHFULNESS prompt. God wants our utmost faith to be in Him and not in any other person or thing. God's fruit of faithfulness helps us to be steadfast and loyal. With the fruit of faith, we won't give up on God, our church, or the ones we love, even when we face hard times. When we are faithful, we please God. He is always faithful to us, and we should be faithful to Him.

Show the MEEKNESS and HUMILITY prompt. This fruit helps us act in a gentle, calm way, especially when we feel upset or angry. It helps us to be unselfish and free of pride. God loves a meek and humble attitude.

Show the TEMPERANCE and SELF-CONTROL prompt. Have you ever wanted to act out in vengeance or anger? We all have. Sometimes we struggle to make good choices, or we insist on having our own way without thinking of the consequences. God's fruit of self-control is the antidote to foolish behaviors. This God-pleasing fruit enhances our lives. Families, teachers, classmates, and friends enjoy being around a person with self-control.

Review Questions

- If we walk in the Spirit, what will begin to grow in our lives? *The fruit of the Spirit*
- Can you name the fruit of the Spirit? *For answers, refer to the Series 3 MW poster (RKDR).*
- Why is the fruit of the Spirit important?
- In addition to pleasing God, what are some benefits of producing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives?
- How can we find the power to grow good spiritual fruit?
- How will you allow God to produce good fruit in your life?

APPLY AND ACT

Galatians 5 Summary

Preparation

- For each student, print the Galatians 5:16–26 Summaries **RKDR**.

Instruction

- As a class, say the TML: “I will let God’s Spirit produce good fruit through me.”
- *Ask:* Why does a person need God’s Spirit to produce good spiritual fruit?
- Distribute the Galatians 5:16–26 Summaries **RKDR**.
 - » For each passage, have a student read the KJV.
 - » Then have another student read the NLT.
 - » Then read the summary and discuss the verse.
- *Galatians 5:16–17 Summary:* Every person has a sinful nature that is attracted to doing evil and things that are contrary to God’s plan. Our sinful nature constantly fights for control of our lives. That is why we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. God alone can give us power to overcome our sinful natures. He guides us to make good choices that produce spiritual fruit.
- *Galatians 5:19–21 Summary:* These verses list the results of giving in to our sinful nature. Unless they repent, those who let their sinful natures continue to produce evil fruit will not inherit God’s kingdom.
- *Galatians 5:24 Summary:* When they repent, people who belong to Jesus leave behind their sinful natures. It is as if they have nailed their sinful nature to the cross where Jesus died.
- *Galatians 5:25–26 Summary:* Jesus doesn’t want us to be proud, fight with each other, or become jealous of each other. He wants us to follow Him in every part of our lives.

Application: God helps us conquer our sinful natures and grow the fruit of the Spirit. If we stay filled with God’s Holy Spirit, we will produce good fruit.

For additional Application Options that use different teaching styles, see page 93:

- Option 1: Guess That Student
- Option 2: Fruity Role-Play

Prayer and Response

Instruction

- Pray for students to feel the presence of God and be filled with the Holy Ghost.
 - » Pray for students to follow Jesus.
 - » Thank God for the gift of His Spirit that enables us to produce spiritual fruit.
 - » Spend time in repentance for attitudes and actions that do not please God.
 - » Pray students will have the fruit of the Spirit growing in their lives.
 - » Pray over each fruit: “Help us to have love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), gentleness (kindness), goodness, faith (faithfulness), meekness (gentleness), and temperance (self-control).”
- Allow time for God’s presence to surround students and empower them with His Holy Spirit.
- Send each student home with an Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page.

The words in parentheses indicate the New Living Translation description of that fruit of the Spirit.

Truth for My Life: I will let God's Spirit produce good fruit through me.

OPENING OPTION 1

Do the Math

Instruction

- Show an apple.
- Ask: How many seeds do you think are inside the apple?
 - » Write students' guesses on the board.
- Cut open the apple and count the seeds.
- Ask: How many apples will these seeds produce?
 - » In a given season, a standard apple tree will produce up to 1,500 apples.
- Say: No one knows exactly how many apples these seeds will produce, but we do know these seeds could grow into apple trees that produce an abundant crop. It is possible these seeds could produce hundreds of thousands of apples. These apples could provide food for many people.
- Ask: What are the results of an abundant crop of God's spiritual fruit?

Application: People who allow God's Spirit to grow an abundant crop of love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control will positively affect their families, churches, and communities.

APPLICATION OPTION 1

Guess That Student

Instruction

- Play a game of "Guess that Student."
- Before the game begins, let students know negative or critical comments will not be allowed.
- Begin by describing a few of a student's physical characteristics, and then name one fruit of the Spirit the student demonstrates. For example, "This student is right-handed, has brown eyes, and shows kindness to everyone."
 - » The first student to guess the mystery student takes the next turn describing another student.
- Continue until every student has been recognized.

Application: When a person allows God's Spirit to produce good attitudes and actions, other people notice. Most important, God is glorified when the fruit of His Spirit is demonstrated in our lives.

OPENING OPTION 2

Don't Ruin the Fruit

Preparation

- Prepare a small bowl of sliced fruit.
- Have a vacuum cleaner nearby with a fairly full dust receptacle or bag.

Instruction

- Show the bowl of sliced fruit and mix it with a spoon.
 - » Ask: Doesn't it look delicious? Would you like a bite?
- Snap your fingers and say: Oh, I forgot to add a secret ingredient.
- Pull out the vacuum and empty the dust receptacle onto the fruit.
- Compare the dirt to hate, conflict, impatience, unkind words, evil, pride, and uncontrolled anger.
 - » Discuss how these sinful actions and attitudes are the opposite of the fruit of God's Spirit.
- Stir the mixture and ask if anyone wants a bite now.

Application: God's Spirit produces good actions and attitudes in us. Yet even while we are growing God's good fruit, we must be aware of bad attitudes and behaviors that can creep in and ruin our fruit. When this happens, God can repair the damage if we repent and pray.

APPLICATION OPTION 2

Fruity Role-Play

Instruction

- Say: For this game, you will pretend by acting out what I describe.
 - » If I ask, "What shouldn't you do?" pretend you do not have the fruit of the Spirit in that situation.
 - » If I ask, "What should you do?" pretend you have the fruit of the Spirit.
- One at a time, read the Fruity Role-Play Scenarios **RKDR**.
 - » Add additional scenarios that are relevant to your students.

Application: With God's Spirit guiding us, we will show good fruit. Let's follow Jesus and be fruitful.

Truth about God: God's Spirit produces spiritual fruit in people.

WORSHIP

Supplies: Video Quick Links document **DR**

Instruction

- A collection of MP3s **DR** from *A Fruitful Life* are provided in the digital resources. Prepare to use the songs throughout the lesson. Songs include: "The Holy Ghost in Me," "The Lord's Fruit Troop," "Love Makes the World Go 'Round," "Joy," "Peace Down in My Heart," "Longsuffering," "To Be Kind," "I Want to Be Good," "A Fruitful Life," and "Walk in the Spirit."
- "Fruit of the Spirit (King James Version)" by PPH Kids Music **QL**
- "Fruit of the Spirit" by Bob Baxter **QL**
- "Fruit of the Spirit" by Uncle Charlie **QL**
- Discuss how worship brings us into the presence of the Lord. In His presence, we can receive power and strength to produce spiritual fruit.
 - » "Psalm 71" by Kelsey Hicks **QL**
 - » "Better Than Good" by Draylin Young **QL**

Application: Worship opens our hearts so God can nourish us and help us grow spiritual fruit.



SNACK OPTION

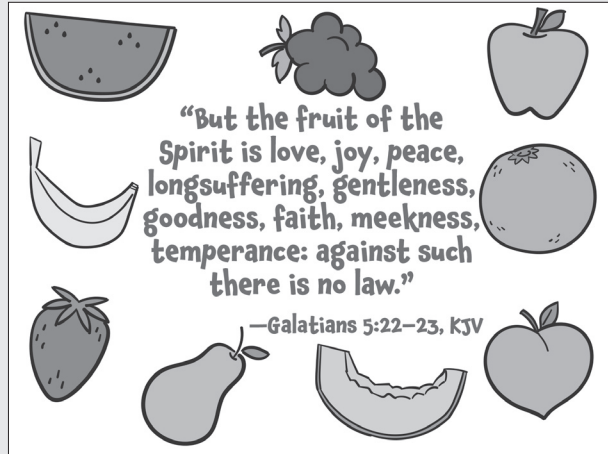
Sweet Fruit

Supplies: Individually packaged fruit cups, plastic spoons, napkins, drinks, cups

Instruction

- Before students enjoy the snack, say this prayer:
 - » Say: God, thank You for the delicious fruit in front of us. Please help us to grow the sweet fruit of Your Spirit in our lives. Help us to share the good things You have given us with others.

Application: In the same way we enjoy a sweet cup of fruit, God enjoys the sweet evidence of the fruit of His Spirit showing up in our attitudes and behaviors. He loves to see us share the sweet fruit of His Spirit with others.



MEMORY WORK

Series 3 Memory Verses: Galatians 5:22–23

Supplies: Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**

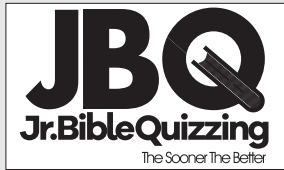
Instruction

- Review the Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**—Galatians 5:22–23.
- Demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit with actions as follows:
 - » Love (*make heart shape with hands*)
 - » Joy (*point to your smile*)
 - » Longsuffering, patience (*pretend to stretch taffy*)
 - » Gentleness, kindness (*pat one hand to the opposite shoulder*)
 - » Goodness (*show thumbs-up*)
 - » Faith, faithfulness (*make praying hands*)
 - » Meekness, humility (*extend arm as if allowing someone to go first*)
 - » Temperance, self-control (*take a deep cleansing breath*)
- Once students become familiar with the actions, speed up the pace.

Application: As we fill our lives with God's Word, we will demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in the things we do.

Truth for My Life: I will let God's Spirit produce good fruit through me.

JBQ OPTION



Preparation

- Select one of the JBQ Games **DR**. Some games require additional props.
- Locate the JBQ Quiz(zes) **DR** that correspond with the current set(s) of verses being studied.

Instruction

- Distribute the current set of JBQ Verses **DR** to new students.
- Play the prepared game with students.
- If students have mastered the verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses **DR**. Otherwise let them study the same set of verses again for next week.

CRAFT OPTION

Tree of Fruit

Supplies per student: Brown paper bag, scissors, glue sticks or glue dots, green tissue paper or construction paper, colorful pom-poms (red, purple, green)

Preparation

- For each student, gather a brown paper bag.
- For more on this craft idea, see “Paper Bag Fall Tree” by Pikadilly Charm **QL**.
- Make a sample tree.

Instruction

- With the paper bag lying flat, cut one-inch strips from the top edge and stop cutting halfway down the bag.
- Open the bag and stand it up.
- Hold the base of the bag with one hand and twist the uncut section of the bag to form the trunk of the tree.
- Then twist the cut strips into branches.
- Cut leaves from green tissue paper or construction paper.
- Use a glue stick or glue dots to attach the leaves to the tree.
- Glue on red, purple, or green pom-poms to represent fruit.
- Ask students to arrange their completed trees on a display table like an orchard.

Application: When Jesus sees all of us producing the fruit of His Spirit, it is as if He sees a beautiful orchard of fruit trees, all growing together, beautiful and unique, just like our craft project.

GAME OPTION

Avoid Rotten Fruit

Supplies: Masking tape, marker, 5 soft foam balls, basket

Preparation

- Use masking tape and marker to label five soft foam balls with descriptions of rotten fruit: SLIMY BANANAS, SMELLY PEACHES, MOLDY ORANGES, SQUISHY GRAPES, and MUSHY APPLES.
 - » Place the labeled foam balls in a basket.
- Use masking tape to mark a throwing line about fifteen feet away from a wall.

Instruction

- Form two teams.
- Clear an open area for students to play a variation of dodge ball.
- For each round, a member from one team stands against a wall, and a member from the other team stands behind the throwing line, about fifteen feet away.
- The person who is throwing has the basket of five pieces of “rotten fruit” to throw.
 - » The person on the wall earns the team one point for each piece of fruit dodged and ten points for avoiding being hit for the entire round.
- Keep score to see which team avoids the most rotten fruit.
- After each round, switch which team is on the wall and which team is throwing.

Application: Just as we tried to avoid the rotten fruit, we should avoid rotten attitudes and behaviors that ruin the fruit of the Spirit. Every day we should seek God's Spirit and allow Him to produce a fresh crop of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control in our lives.

3.3

SERIES 3: FULL OF THE SPIRIT

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

SERIES AIM

To examine how God wants the fruit and gifts of the Spirit to operate in our lives.

SERIES MEMORY VERSES

Galatians 5:22-23, KJV

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Galatians 5:22-23, NLT

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"

BIBLE LESSON VERSES

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all."



TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God gives spiritual gifts to help the church.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will use my spiritual gifts.

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. Prayerfully consider what this passage says:

ABOUT GOD

In addition to filling us with His Holy Spirit, God blesses the church with the gifts of the Spirit. These are not for personal exaltation, but rather to edify the body of Christ and to glorify God, the giver of the gifts. When the spiritual gifts are at work in the church, the Holy Spirit can manifest the miraculous. In 1 Corinthians 12:31, Paul encouraged the church to seek a closer walk with God in hopes of being used in the gifts of the Spirit.

TO YOU AS A TEACHER

Paul said, "Covet earnestly the best gifts" (1 Corinthians 12:31). How do we do this? Instead of looking to do the miraculous, ask God how to love like He loves. As you minister to your students with God's soft heart, you will feel their brokenness and prayerfully look to help them. As the Spirit works through you, so will the gifts of the Spirit.

TO YOUR STUDENTS

Students who have not attended many adult church services may not be familiar with the gifts of the Spirit. Watch for evidence of confusion. Clear up any questions. Emphasize the positive effects of allowing God to minister through His supernatural gifts.

SUPPLIES

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

- Large nicely wrapped gift box or gift bag prepared for the Bible lesson
- Attendance poster **RKDR**, stickers, Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**

Video Introduction

- “Do You Misuse Tools?” **QL**
- “Hilarious Power Tool Fails” **QL**
- “First the Safety!!!” **QL**

Opener

- Vintage Music Player visual **RKDR**
Optional: Vinyl record, record player

Opening Option 1

- *Per student:* Bible Verses about God’s Gifts **RKDR**, pen or marker

Opening Option 2

- *Per student:* Ephesians 4:11–12 handout **RKDR**, pencil, Bible

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Lesson Lead-In

- No supplies necessary

Bible Lesson

- Bible Lesson Gift Tags **RKDR**, Scrambled Gifts **RKDR**, 3 smaller gift boxes or gift bags, one larger gift box or gift bag
- *Per small group:* 9 pieces of paper and a pencil or a small whiteboard and marker
- New Birth poster **RKDR**, Bibles

APPLY AND ACT

- No supplies necessary

Application Option 1

- Large exercise ball

Application Option 2

- *Per small group:* Paper, pencil

Prayer and Response

- *Per student:* Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

Preparation

- To attract students’ attention, display a large nicely wrapped gift box or gift bag prepared for the Bible lesson. See the Bible lesson (page 98) for details on the contents.

Instruction

- As students enter, collect offering and record attendance.
- Review the Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**—Galatians 5:22–23.
- Draw attention to the gift-wrapped box.
 - » *Ask:* Do you like getting gifts?
- Introduce the TAG: “God gives spiritual gifts to help the church.”

Application: When you love someone, you enjoy giving that person gifts. God loves us more than any person could ever love us. He has provided many gifts to help us. In this lesson, we will examine God’s spiritual gifts designed to benefit the church.

Video Introduction

- When it is time to get students’ attention, consider showing one of the following videos about using tools:
 - » “Do You Misuse Tools?” by AutoDoc **QL**
 - » “Hilarious Power Tool Fails” by TheEllenShow **QL**
 - » “First the Safety!!! - Tools Accident” by Tool_Tips **QL**

Opener: The Gift That Keeps on Giving

Preparation

- If possible, locate a long-playing vinyl record and a record player.

Instruction

- *Say:* In 1877, Thomas Edison created the first device to play back recorded sound. It was called a phonograph and later given the trade name Victrola.
- *Optional:* Play a vinyl record on a record player.
- Display the Vintage Music Player visual **RKDR**.
- *Ask:* Have you ever seen a phonograph like this? Where? Was it working?
- *Say:* In the 1920s, the Victor Talking Machine Company, which manufactured phonographs and records promoted their products with this slogan: “The gift that keeps on giving.”
 - » *Ask:* Why do you think the company chose that slogan?



Application: A gift that keeps on giving is one that continues to give pleasure for a long time, even years. Thankfully, God has given the church special gifts that keep on giving and giving and giving. Yes, God gives spiritual gifts to benefit the church.

For additional Opening Options that use different teaching styles, see page 101:

- Option 1: God's Gifts
- Option 2: Five Special Gifts

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Bible Lesson Verses

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all" (I Corinthians 12:4–6).

Lesson Lead-In

Instruction

- *Say:* Some of the most valuable gifts do not cost money.
- Ask students to describe gifts they have received that have kept on giving.
- Ask students to talk about gifts of lasting value they have given or received.

Application: The Bible describes God's valuable gifts that have been part of His church for nearly two thousand years. His gifts are still giving us insight and encouragement today.

Bible Lesson: The Gifts of the Spirit (I Corinthians 12:1–11)

Preparation

- Cut apart the four Bible Lesson Gift Tags **RKDR** and the nine Scrambled Gifts **RKDR**.
- Locate three gift boxes or gift bags that will fit inside a larger gift box or gift bag.
 - » Tag the first smaller box or bag with "Gifts of Revelation," and place the three red Scrambled Gifts inside.
 - » Tag the second smaller box or bag with "Gifts of Power," and place the three blue Scrambled Gifts inside.
 - » Tag the third smaller box or bag with the "Gifts of Utterance," and place the three green Scrambled Gifts inside.
- Place the three smaller gifts inside the larger gift box or bag and attach the "Gifts of the Spirit" gift tag.
- Prior to class, place this prepared gift box or bag on a table in students' view. (See page 97.)

Instruction

- Form small groups.
 - » Give each group nine pieces of paper and a pencil or a small whiteboard and marker.
- *Say:* During the Bible lesson, when we come across a scrambled word, each group will try to decide what the word is and write down your answer. Then I will reveal the correct answer. Your team will earn one point for each correct answer.

*Using the New Birth poster **RKDR**, ask students to read or quote Acts 2:38.* In this verse, what gift is promised to those who repent and are baptized in Jesus' name? *The gift of the Holy Ghost.* Once we are filled with God's Spirit, God promises to give us more wonderful gifts, which are detailed in I Corinthians 12:8–11. *Have students look up this passage.*

Read the tag on the large gift: "To the Church: Gifts of the Spirit, From: Jesus." How exciting! *Let a student open the gift and remove the three smaller gifts. Don't open them yet.*

In addition to the gift of the Holy Ghost, God has given the church nine supernatural gifts—the gifts of the Spirit. These gifts empower Spirit-filled Christians to know, do, and proclaim



Truth for My Life: I will use my spiritual gifts.

things they could not know, do, or proclaim with their natural ability. These nine gifts are often separated into three categories.

Read the “Gifts of Revelation” tag and have a student open the gift to reveal three red scrambled words. The first category is the Gifts of Revelation. Give groups time to try to unscramble the three strips. Then reveal the answers one at a time and discuss each gift.

- **WISDOM:** With the gift of wisdom, God helps us to be wise and to see people and situations as God sees them, so we can give good advice and make good choices.
- **KNOWLEDGE:** With the gift of knowledge, God tells us things we do not know about a person or a situation. Sometimes He tells us things to warn us, to give good advice, and to help us make good choices.
- **DISCERNING:** God gives this gift to help us know if a person or situation is good or evil. If your stomach feels funny around someone or you cannot sleep because you can't stop thinking about someone, pay attention. God may be giving you the gift of spiritual discernment.

Read the “Gifts of Power” tag and have a student open the gift to reveal three blue scrambled words. The second category is the Gifts of Power. Give groups time to unscramble the three strips. Again, reveal the answers and discuss each gift.

- **FAITH:** When God gives us the gift of faith, we have a supernatural ability to trust God to do amazing things. The gift of faith often brings about miracles.
- **HEALING:** God gives us the gift of healing when He wants us to pray for someone who needs help. As we lay hands on a person and pray, God may heal that person's body, mind, or emotions. Through healing, God wants to show us His better plan for our lives.
- **MIRACLES:** There is no limit to what God can do through us. In John 14:12, Jesus said His church would do even greater miracles than He did. No matter the need, God can give us the gift of miracles to reveal His power and show His plan.

Read the “Gifts of Utterance” tag and have a student open the gift to reveal three green scrambled words. The third category is the Gifts of Utterance, which is all about speaking. Let groups unscramble the three strips. Again, reveal the answers and discuss each gift.

- **TONGUES:** We hear this gift often in church. With the gift of speaking in tongues, we speak in a heavenly language or sometimes in a language we have never learned, such as French, Spanish, or Mandarin. When God gives this gift, it is meant to build up our faith. If the message is not interpreted, no one but God (and maybe His angels) understands the message.
- **INTERPRETATION:** Through this gift, God allows us to understand what someone else is saying when he or she is speaking in tongues. Then we are to share that message with the church to build up their faith.
- **PROPHECY:** When someone is given the gift of prophecy, that person sees things through God's eyes to reveal something that may otherwise be overlooked or to reveal the future as God has shown it.

Just like people use tools to build a house, God uses His spiritual gifts as “tools” to build His church. As we pray for one another in love, we should expect God to give us these gifts so we can help each other. Using God's gifts takes faith and bravery because other people are usually involved. The more we let God use us, the more gifts He will give us. When we come to church, we should expect God to bless us with His amazing spiritual gifts.

Review Questions

- Why does God provide spiritual gifts?
- What are the three Gifts of Revelation? How do they help God's people?
- What are the three Gifts of Power? How do they inspire God's people?
- What are the three Gifts of Utterance? How do they benefit the church?
- What will you do if God uses you to deliver a spiritual gift to the church?

APPLY AND ACT

Gifts of the Spirit Role-Play

Instruction

- Have students act out each situation, demonstrating how that gift might look in that situation.
- *Wisdom:* You are setting up for a Christmas banquet. You have three people who want to help.
 - » The gift of wisdom can help them know how best to use their talents and abilities.
- *Knowledge:* You are praying for a friend who is crying and seems really upset.
 - » The gift of knowledge can let you know why your friend is crying.
- *Discerning of spirits:* You answer the door and a stranger says he can fix up your house for cheap.
 - » The gift of discerning of spirits can tell you if the stranger wants to help you or rip you off.
- *Faith:* You are down to your last \$20. You feel God tell you to give it to a homeless person.
 - » The gift of faith will let you give the money because you trust God to take care of you.
- *Healing:* You are praying for someone who has a broken leg.
 - » The gift of healing can miraculously heal the broken leg.
- *Miracles:* As you set up for a big outdoor church event, a storm suddenly rolls in.
 - » Through your prayers, the gift of miracles can suddenly stop the storm.
- *Speaking in tongues:* You feel frustrated and need God's help.
 - » Through the gift of speaking in tongues, you feel God's presence and know He wants to speak to you.
- *Interpretation of tongues:* During a church service, you hear someone speaking in tongues.
 - » The gift of interpretation of tongues lets you understand what God is saying so you can deliver the message to the whole church.
- *Prophecy:* A missionary is telling you about her plans to start a church in a new city.
 - » The gift of prophecy lets you encourage the missionary by telling her the city's mayor will be an important member of her church.

Application: God gives spiritual gifts to help build His church. When we stay connected to Him, He will use us by giving us spiritual gifts.

For additional Application Options that use different teaching styles, see page 101:

- Option 1: Willing to Share
- Option 2: The Best Gift

Prayer and Response

Instruction

- *Say:* When God gives us a gift of the Spirit, sometimes it can be scary because it usually involves praying for other people. When we feel the Spirit of God telling us to do something, we must be brave and speak out in faith. Sometimes we may make a mistake, and that is OK.
 - » Share a personal story of a wayward attempt to be used in the gifts.
- *Say:* The more we use the gifts God gives us, the more natural it will feel. If we will not be brave, God cannot use us to deliver the gift.
- Pray for students to stay connected to Jesus.
 - » Thank the Lord for the gifts He has given to encourage and strengthen His church.
 - » Pray students will be used in the spiritual gifts.
 - » Let students share prayer requests and lay hands on one another, praying in faith.
 - » Pray for students to be willing to step out in faith to share God's gifts.
- Send each student home with an Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page.

Truth for My Life: I will use my spiritual gifts.

OPENING OPTION 1

God's Gifts

Instruction

- For each student, print the Bible Verses about God's Gifts **RKDR**.
- As you discuss each verse on the handout, have students circle the relevant words.
- *For each verse, ask:* In this verse, what does God's Spirit give us? How do these gifts keep on giving?
 - » Romans 14:17—righteousness, peace, and joy
 - » Acts 1:8—power to overcome sin and be witnesses
 - » John 16:13—direction
 - » John 14:26—comfort
 - » Romans 8:11—resurrection power
- Conclude by reading I Corinthians 12:4–6.

Application: God's gifts keep on giving. They enhance our lives, provide healing, and give us power to overcome sin.

OPENING OPTION 2

Five Special Gifts

Instruction

- For each student, print the Ephesians 4:11–12 handout **RKDR**.
- *Say:* God has given the church five special gifts known as the fivefold ministry. God provides these ministers to serve, encourage, and help church members grow spiritually strong.
- From the handout, read Ephesians 4:11–12. Let students look up the verses in the Bible to fill in the blanks as you discuss each role.
 - » *Say:* An *apostle* is sent by God to help the church.
 - » *Say:* A *prophet* shares God's divine knowledge about situations and the future.
 - » If students are not familiar with *evangelists* and *pastors*, explain their roles.
 - » Point out the importance of listening to *teachers*.
- *Ask:* Do you know any ministers who serve in these roles?
- *Ask:* Could God's church exist without these people? Why or why not?

Application: God empowers ministers with gifts of the Spirit to help the people He loves and to benefit the church.

APPLICATION OPTION 1

Willing to Share

Instruction

- Elementary students are fascinated with the supernatural and may have lots of questions.
- Have students sit in a circle.
- *Ask:* Who has a question about the gifts of the Spirit?
 - » Roll the exercise ball to the first student who raises a hand.
 - » The student asks the question and then rolls the ball back.
- After you answer the question, roll the ball to another student who has a question.
- For difficult questions, tell students you will do some research or ask your pastor and get back with them.
- If students are reluctant to ask questions, ask the first question and roll the ball to any student willing to answer.
 - » *Ask:* At what age can a person receive a spiritual gift from God?

Application: God wants us to be willing to share His amazing gifts. Each gift is important. We should work together in unity as we share His gifts.

APPLICATION OPTION 2

The Best Gift

Instruction

- Read I Corinthians 12:31: "But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way."
 - » *Say:* This verse tells us to earnestly covet (desire) the best gifts.
- *Ask:* Which spiritual gift do you consider to be the best gift?
- Form small groups.
 - » For each gift of the Spirit, let groups develop a scenario where using or receiving that gift would be ideal.

Application: In each case, the best gift is the gift that is needed. We need God's Spirit to help us if we want to see these gifts in action, which requires prayer and reading God's Word. The gifts of the Spirit are given to benefit the church and to help us in supernatural ways.

WORSHIP

Supplies: Video Quick Links document **DR**

Instruction

- **Say:** As we worship, we need to be sensitive to the move of God's Spirit. During worship, God will often inspire someone to be used in the gifts of the Spirit. As you sing, God may encourage you to go pray for someone. Then as you are praying, He may give you a gift of knowledge, wisdom, or healing.
 - » "Battle Belongs • Live" from Urshan Live 2022 by Urshan College **QL**
 - » "Your Spirit | In His Name" from IBC LIVE 2019 **QL**
 - » "Mighty God" by James Wilson **QL**
 - » "What Mercy Did for Me" by Charity Gayle **QL**
 - » "You're Looking at a Miracle" by The Pentecostals of Kat **QL**
 - » "Fruit of the Spirit (King James Version)" by PPH Kids Music **QL**

Application: An atmosphere of worship allows God's Spirit to empower people with spiritual gifts. Then God's gifts can be used to encourage the church and tear down strongholds of doubt and fear.

CRAFT OPTION

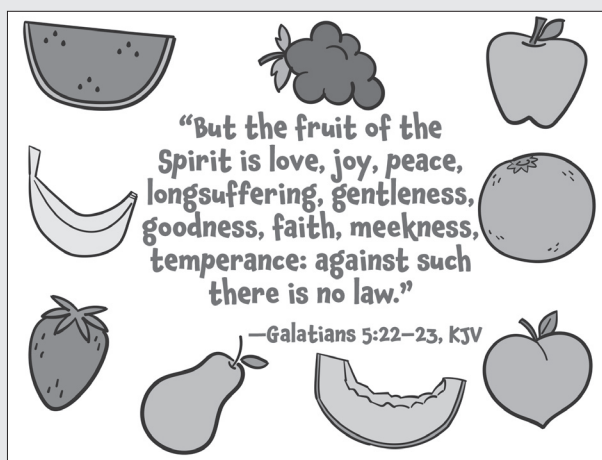
Thank You

Supplies: Note cards, art supplies, envelopes, postage, whiteboard and marker

Instruction

- On the board, write a simple message of appreciation for students to copy.
- Provide art supplies, note cards, and envelopes.
- **Say:** Think of a minister who has helped you.
 - » Discuss the gift of the fivefold ministry from Ephesians 4:11-12.
- **Ask:** Have you ever expressed your appreciation to that person? If so, how? If not, now is the time to do it.
- Give each student a note card and art supplies.
 - » Encourage students to write a message of appreciation, creating their own or copying the one from the board.
- Students can hand deliver or mail their cards.

Application: God has given us the gift of the five-fold ministry to benefit the church and to help us. When we send a thank-you card to a minister, we are giving a gift that will keep on giving.



MEMORY WORK

Series 3 Memory Verses: Galatians 5:22-23

Supplies: 9 sheets of cardstock in various colors, scissors, black marker, tape, Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**

Preparation

- Cut out nine large shapes from cardstock.
 - » On each shape write the name of one fruit of the Spirit.
 - » Attach the shapes to the floor in jumbled fashion within jumping distance of each other.

Instruction

- Review the Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**—Galatians 5:22-23.
- **Ask:** How many fruits of the Spirit are there? How many gifts of the Spirit are there?
- **Ask:** How do the fruit of the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit enhance the lives of God's people?
- As the class quotes (or reads) Galatians 5:22-23 from the MW poster, the first player jumps from shape to shape, repeating the name of each fruit.
- Let students take turns being the jumper.

Application: We must work together in unity to complete God's plan. It takes all of us using our gifts to make the church function.

VIDEO REVIEW

- To review the Bible lesson, show one of the following videos:
 - » "God Sends the Holy Spirit" by Saddleback Kids **QL**
 - » "All Spiritual Gifts Explained in Less than 10 Minutes" by Impact Video Ministries **QL**

Truth for My Life: I will use my spiritual gifts.

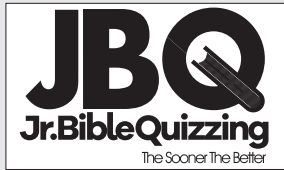
JBQ OPTION

Preparation

- Select one of the JBQ Games **DR**. Some games require additional props.
- Locate the JBQ Quiz(zes) **DR** that correspond with the current set(s) of verses being studied.

Instruction

- Distribute the current set of JBQ Verses **DR** to new students.
- Play the prepared game with students.
- If students have mastered the verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses **DR**. Otherwise let them study the same set of verses again for next week.



GAME OPTION

Which Gift Is Missing?

Supplies: Index cards, markers

Preparation

- For each contestant, create a set of cards by writing the nine gifts of the Spirit on nine different index cards.
 - » Consider using a different marker color for each set to tell the different sets apart.

Instruction

- Shuffle each set of cards and remove one card from each set.
- For each set of cards, select a competitor.
 - » On “go,” competitors try to determine which gift is missing.
- The first student to answer correctly is the winner and continues into the next round to compete against new students.

Application: If we are familiar with God’s spiritual gifts, we can be ready to use them to help others.



SNACK OPTION

God’s Gifts

Supplies: Square sugar cookies, tubes and tubs of frosting, plastic knives, waxed paper, paper plates, napkins, milk, cups

Instruction

- Instruct students to wash their hands.
- Give each student a strip of waxed paper to work on.
- Place frosting in the center of the table.
- Give each student a cookie or two to decorate to look like a wrapped gift.
- Then have students decorate extra cookies to give to members of the church’s ministry team.
- Ask a volunteer to thank God for the food and for His spiritual gifts.
- Let students enjoy their cookies and milk.
- Have students share the extra cookies with the ministry team.

Application: God’s spiritual gifts are beneficial to His people.

3.4

GOD'S LOVE

I Corinthians 13–14

SERIES AIM

To examine how God wants the fruit and gifts of the Spirit to operate in our lives.

SERIES MEMORY VERSES

Galatians 5:22–23, KJV

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

Galatians 5:22–23, NLT

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!”

BIBLE LESSON VERSE

I Corinthians 13:1

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.”



TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God is love, and He wants us to be like Him.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I will demonstrate love in all I do.

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read I Corinthians 13–14. Prayerfully consider what these chapters say:

ABOUT GOD

The fruit of the Spirit springs from love. The gifts of the Spirit must be operated in love. Love is the root of Christianity, for God is love.

TO YOU AS A TEACHER

Not all children are likable, but all are loveable. Do you want to reach every child in your class, even the abrasive, disruptive, rebellious one? Pray that God will baptize you with the strongest force in the world—His love.

TO YOUR STUDENTS

Late-elementary students can be cruel to one another. They are also competitive and very observant of each other's flaws. Use this lesson to point out the importance of showing kindness and compassion. Have them think about how they can react differently to show God's love. Let students know a religious experience is empty without God's love. First Corinthians 13 would be an excellent chapter for students to memorize.

SUPPLIES

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

- Heart decorations, heart-shape labeled: LOVE
- *Per student:* Heart-shaped treat, napkin
- Attendance poster **RKDR**, stickers, Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**

Video Introduction

- “Dad Holds Baby Son for First Time” **QL**
- “These Toddlers’ Heartwarming Reaction to Spotting Each Other on the Street Will Make Your Day” **QL**
- “100 Kids Describe Love” **QL**
- “Funny Animation • I Love You” **QL**

Opener

- “Good Apple?” visual **RKDR**
- Whole apples (to serve)

Opening Option 1

- *Per small group:* 2 posterboard heart puzzles, bag

Opening Option 2

- *Per student:* Fast Food Slogans quiz **RKDR**, pencil, paper, markers

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Lesson Lead-In

- Whiteboard and markers

Bible Lesson

- 2 pot lids or cymbals, pleasant-sounding bells, purse or wallet
- Box of cereal with contents taken out
- Love Heart visual **RKDR**

APPLY AND ACT

- “Love in Action” scenarios **RKDR**

Application Option 1

- “God’s Love Newscast” script **RKDR**, 2 actors, whiteboard and markers

Application Option 2

- Whiteboard and markers

Prayer and Response

- *Per student:* Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Connect

Preparation

- To celebrate the love of God, decorate the room in hearts.
- At the front of the room, place a large heart shape labeled: LOVE.
- Make heart-shaped treats, such as sugar cookies or Rice Krispies treats.

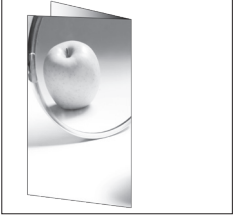
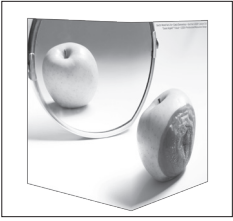
Instruction

- As students arrive, give each student a heart-shaped treat to eat.
- Record attendance and collect offering.
- Review the Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**—Galatians 5:22–23.
- Introduce the TAG: “God is love, and He wants us to be like Him.”

Application: Jesus loves you so much. In today’s lesson we will learn how much Jesus loves us and how it is important to love one another. Jesus wants us to be filled with His love and demonstrate His love in everything we do.

Video Introduction

- When it is time to get students’ attention, consider playing a song about love:
 - » “Dad Holds Baby Son for First Time” by Bingyst **QL**
 - » “These Toddlers’ Heartwarming Reaction to Spotting Each Other on the Street Will Make Your Day” by ABC News **QL**
 - » “100 Kids Describe Love” by HiHo Kids **QL**
 - » “Funny Animation • I Love You” by Design Lius **QL**



Opener: Good Apple?

Preparation

- Fold the “Good Apple?” visual **RK DR** in half so only the good apple is showing.
- Prewash whole apples so students can safely eat them.

Instruction

- Show the whole apples. Let each student select one to eat.
 - » Ask: How did you select your apple? What were you looking for?
- Show the visual so only the apple’s good side is showing.
 - » Ask: Would you eat this apple?
- Unfold the visual to show the rotten half.
 - » Ask: How about now?
- Ask: Have you ever bitten into fruit and found an unpleasant surprise inside?
- Ask: What should you do with rotten fruit? *Throw it away.*

Application: Sometimes we hide our rotten side from others, but God knows what is inside us. When we act with impatience, hate, or jealousy, we become rotten. We must repent, getting rid of the rottenness before it makes us completely rotten. God is love. He wants us to show love, not rottenness, in all we do and say.

For additional Opening Options that use different teaching styles, see page 109:

- Option 1: Puzzling Hearts
- Option 2: Love Slogans

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Bible Lesson Verse

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal” (I Corinthians 13:1).

Lesson Lead-In

Instruction

- On a whiteboard, write: GOD IS . . .
- Ask: What are some words that describe God?
 - » Write students’ answers on the board. Answers include: wonderful, faithful, holy, kind, great, eternal, powerful, omnipotent, Jesus, and so on.
- Say: Wow! Look at everything God is. In today’s lesson we will learn the biggest thing He is: God is love.
 - » Write LOVE in big letters over all the other answers.
- Ask: What do you think of when you hear the word *love*?

Application: God is love. In today’s lesson we will learn how God wants us to show love in everything we do.

Bible Lesson: God’s Love (I Corinthians 13–14)

Preparation

- Gather pot lids or cymbals to clang together during the lesson.
- Locate a few softer, pleasant-sounding bells.
- From a box of cereal, remove the bag of cereal inside. Place the contents somewhere near the storytelling area.
 - » Close the box so it looks full.

Truth for My Life: I will demonstrate love in all I do.

Instruction

Today we will use our listening ears to hear what God's love sounds like (*make a pleasant sound with a bell or an instrument*) and what we sound like when we do not have God's love. *Clang pot lids or cymbals*. Are you ready? *Hand out a few bells or instruments to students*. As I read I Corinthians 13:1-8 from the New Living Translation (NLT), every time you hear the word *love*, ding the bell one time. After you ding your bell, pass it to someone else. *Practice*.

Clear throat and read dramatically. "If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't **love** others (*make a heart with hands*), I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. *Clang lids or cymbals*.

If I . . . understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge (*point to head*), and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't **love** others, I would be nothing.

If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body (*hand someone your purse or wallet*), I could boast about it; but if I didn't **love** others, I would have gained nothing.

Love is patient and kind. **Love** is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.

Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But **love** will last forever!"

Show the Love Heart visual **RKDR**. Look at the things we have when we have **love**. *Point to each line as you read.* "**Love** is patient. **Love** is kind. **Love** does not envy. **Love** does not boast. **Love** is not proud. **Love** does not dishonor others. **Love** is not self-seeking. **Love** is not easily angered. **Love** keeps no record of wrongs. **Love** rejoices with the truth. **Love** always protects. **Love** always trusts. **Love** always hopes. **Love** always perseveres. **Love** never fails!"



When we do not have **love**, what do we sound like? *Bang the lids or cymbals again*.

Show the cereal box. Does anyone like this kind of cereal? What if I told you that to get this box of cereal, you needed to show patience and self-control? *Choose a volunteer to demonstrate patience by sitting and waiting for thirty seconds*. If you want this box of cereal, you also need to be kind, so you should probably compliment a person or two. *Encourage volunteer to do this*.

Give the volunteer the box and have him or her look inside. What? The box is empty? *Bang the lids or cymbals again*. That's not a very loving thing to do, is it? *Locate the bag of cereal and give it to the student*. If I was demonstrating **love**, I would have made sure the cereal box was full before I made you sit and wait. God does not make us do things for Him first and then say He **loves** us. He **loves** us automatically, unconditionally, no matter what.

We can have all the gifts of the Spirit, but most of all, we need **love** in our lives. It is so important. God is **love**. **Love** is why He made us and gave us life. **Love** is why Jesus died on the cross for us. **Love** is why He does so much for us. God **loves** us. When we have His **love** in our hearts, He will help us show **love** to each other. *Gather the bells or instruments*.

Review Questions

- First Corinthians 13:1 says religious actions are useless without God's love. Why?
- Describe characteristics of God's love.
- Describe ways a person can demonstrate God's love.
- How are people around us affected when we do not show God's love?
- Share one way you will show God's love this week.

APPLY AND ACT

Demonstrate God's Love

Preparation

- Cut apart the “Love in Action” scenarios **RKDR**.

Instruction

- As a class, say the TML: “I will demonstrate love in all I do.”
- Ask students for their ideas about demonstrating God's love.
- *Ask:* Is it always easy to show God's love? Why or why not?
- *Say:* Our human nature would rather be selfish, refuse to show God's love, and do only want what it wants to do. That's why we need to be filled with God's Spirit. He provides power for us to make better choices. He fills us with His love so we can demonstrate His love to others.
- Let students work in small groups.
 - » Give each group a “Love in Action” scenario **RKDR**.
 - » Ask students to work together and create a skit that demonstrates God's love in their scenario.

Application: God gives us opportunities to demonstrate His love in our daily lives. We show people God's love with our kindness, compassion, and generosity.

For additional Application Options that use different teaching styles, see page 109:

- Option 1: God's Love Newscast
- Option 2: Everything Done in Love

Prayer and Response

Instruction

- *Ask:* Do you know someone you want us to pray for?
 - » Thank God for loving us and forgiving us of our sins.
 - » Pray for requests students named.
 - » Pray God would show us where we need to show more love.
 - » Pray God would help us love others the way He loves us.
 - » Pray God would make us more like Him—patient, kind, and faithful.
- Send each student home with an Late Elementary Devotional and Activity Page.

OPENING OPTION 1

Puzzling Hearts

Preparation

- For each small group, create two heart shapes from two different colors of posterboard.
 - » Then cut both heart shapes into puzzle pieces.
 - » Mix up the pieces and place them in one bag.

Instruction

- Form small groups. Give each group a bag of puzzle pieces.
- Challenge students to open the bags and decide what to do.
 - » Eventually students should figure out there are two puzzles and then put each puzzle together.

Application: One heart represents God and His love. The second heart represents us. God wants us to have a heart of love just like His. God is love, and He wants us to be like Him.

APPLICATION OPTION 1

God's Love Newscast

Preparation

- Make two additional copies of the "God's Love Newscast" script **RKDR**.

Instruction

- Perform the "God's Love Newscast" script **RKDR**.
 - » In addition to yourself, you will need two actors to be newscasters.
- Prepare an area on a whiteboard for a student to keep score.
- During the newscast, pause as indicated, and ask students to identify which characteristic of love each person did or did not display.

Application: Neither Alex nor Olivia was perfect. We all make poor choices, but when we make those choices, God wants us to repent and do better. God's love is patient and kind, even when we make mistakes.

OPENING OPTION 2

Love Slogans

Preparation

- For each student, copy the Fast Food Slogans quiz **RKDR**.

Instruction

- Allow two minutes for students to take the Fast Food Slogans quiz **RKDR**.
 - » Take note of the slogans that cause strong reactions in students.
 - » *Answers:* 1. F; 2. O; 3. I; 4. E; 5. H; 6. L; 7. A; 8. C; 9. G; 10. J; 11. B; 12. K; 13. D; 14. N; 15. M
- Analyze several slogans.
 - » *Ask:* What makes this slogan successful?
- Hand out paper and markers. Students can work individually or in groups.
 - » Challenge students to design slogans that announce God's great love and to invite people to church.
- Display the slogans in the classroom.

Application: Companies spend a lot of money and time to develop slogans in hopes of gaining more customers. If we want more people to be part of God's church, we must advertise His love. We must be like Him.

APPLICATION OPTION 2

Everything Done in Love

Instruction

- *Ask:* What are ten things you like to do every day? *Write students' answers on a whiteboard.*
- Then on the board, write: EVERYTHING.
- *Say:* God wants us to do *everything* with love.
 - » *For each thing students mentioned, ask:* How can we do this without showing love?
 - » *Ask:* What does it look like to add God's love to each of these things you do every day?
- For each thing named, let students share how God's love can be shown while doing it.
- *Ask:* How can we show love to our families? to our friends? to our church family?
 - » When you point to a student, the student pops up, says, and acts out one way to show love toward others.
- *Ask:* Is it always easy to show love? Why or why not?

Application: God wants us to love others and to show love to others in everything we do. How will you show the love of God this week?

Truth about God: God is love, and He wants us to be like Him.

WORSHIP

Supplies: Video Quick Links document **DR**

Instruction

- Say: God's love is amazing, and we want to be like Him. Sometimes when we are going through a tough time, worship can change our attitude.
 - » "His Love For Me" by Urshan College **QL**
 - » "What Love Is This" by Landry Cantrell **QL**
 - » "Fruit of the Spirit (King James Version)" by PPH Kids Music **QL**
 - » "Love Makes the World Go 'Round" by PPH Kids Music **QL**
 - » "Because You Love Me" by PPH Kids Music **QL**

Application: Worship and prayer open our hearts to be filled with God's love. Then we can share His love with others.

CRAFT OPTION

Hearts Filled with God's Love

Supplies: Cardstock (1 sheet per student), pencil, scissors, washable paint, paintbrushes, painting supplies (e.g., smocks, table coverings, bowls of water), scissors, paper towels, wet wipes

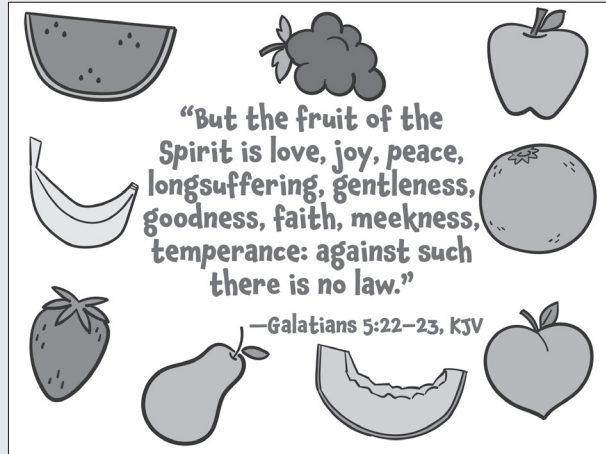
Preparation

- For each student, fold a sheet of cardstock in half.
 - » Use a pencil to draw a half-heart outline with the center of the heart along the fold line.

Instruction

- Give each student a prepared sheet of cardstock.
 - » Direct them to keep the paper folded as they cut along the outline to create a heart shape.
- Give students access to small containers of washable paint and painting supplies.
 - » Direct students to use paintbrushes to drop small paint blobs in the center of their heart shape.
 - » Then have students fold their heart shape and gently press it to spread the paint to the edges. To prevent messes, warn students not to press too hard.
- When unfolded, the hearts will have creative designs and swirls of paint.
- Leave the heart shapes on the table until the paint is dry.

Application: God's love is beautiful, creative, encouraging, and even fun. We should keep our hearts filled with His love.



MEMORY WORK

Series 3 Memory Verses: Galatians 5:22–23

Supplies: 9 pieces of fruit (real or fake), labels, marker, tape, Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**

Preparation

- Label nine pieces of fruit, each with a fruit of the Spirit.
- For larger classes, consider preparing two sets of fruit.
- Hide the fruit around the room.

Instruction

- Review the Series 3 MW poster **RKDR**—Galatians 5:22–23.
- Challenge students to search the room for fruit.
- Then direct students to stand in a circle holding the fruit they found.
- Instruct students to lift up the fruit as it is mentioned.
- Recite the verses several times.

Application: God is love. With the fruit of His Spirit in our lives, we can demonstrate His love to others.

VIDEO REVIEW

- To review the Bible lesson, show one of the following videos:
 - » "1 Corinthians 13 - Love Is" by ShareFaith Kids **QL**
 - » "What Is Love? (Fruit of the Spirit)" by Minno **QL**
 - » "Freddie's Friendly Farm - 1 Corinthians 13" by iCharacter **QL**
 - » "The Church of Corinth (1 Corinthians 13:1–13)" by Saddleback Kids **QL**
 - » "Love in Action" by LifeKids **QL**

Truth for My Life: I will demonstrate love in all I do.

JBQ OPTION

Preparation

- Select one of the JBQ Games **DR**. Some games require additional props.
- Locate the JBQ Quiz(zes) **DR** that correspond with the current set(s) of verses being studied.

Instruction

- Distribute the current set of JBQ Verses **DR** to new students.
- Play the prepared game with students.
- If students have mastered the verses, send home a new set of JBQ Verses **DR**. Otherwise let them study the same set of verses again for next week.



GAME OPTION

Love in the Air

Supplies: Marker, round balloons (2 per student), timer

Preparation

- For each student, inflate two balloons.
 - » On one balloon, write: GOD'S.
 - » On the other balloon, write: LOVE.

Instruction

- Give each student a set of GOD'S LOVE balloons.
- Say: For the next three minutes, we will try to keep all the balloons in the air, keeping them from touching the ground. To do this, don't just think about your own balloons. If you get a chance, help out your friends as well.

Application: Keeping those balloons in the air took some effort, just like it takes effort for us to demonstrate God's love. When we realize how much He loves us, it is worth the effort to love others.



SNACK OPTION

Fruit Smoothies

Supplies: Blender, ice, milk, coconut milk, almond milk, bananas, strawberries, pineapple, honey, maple syrup, bowls, spoons, cups

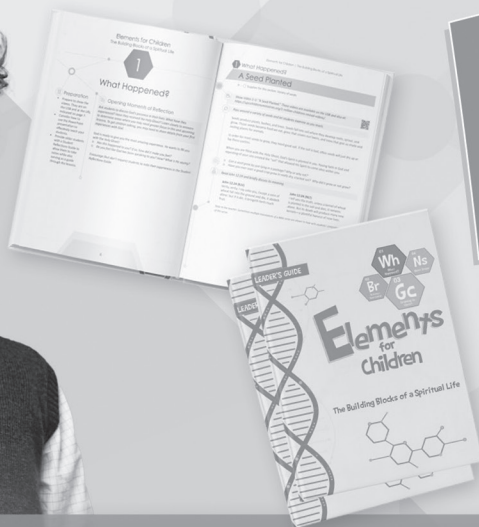
Preparation

- Prepare fruit and place each type in a separate bowl.

Instruction

- Discuss the importance of filling our lives with the ingredients of love mentioned I Corinthians 13.
 - » Challenge each student to mention one of the love actions described in I Corinthians 13.
- Ask: How will we benefit from demonstrating the love of God?
- Ask a student to pray for the snack and pray for everyone to be filled with God's love.
- Show students a variety of smoothie ingredients and blend their drinks to order.

Application: God is love. He wants us to be like Him, filled with love, goodness, and grace.



Elements for Children

Have children in your church recently received their personal Pentecost? Looking for a resource to help them understand their experience? Elements for Children provides videos and teaching materials on four topics relating to the new birth and building a foundation to grow in a new relationship with God. This discipleship tool includes a printed leader's guide and a USB with videos to add excitement to this vital teaching.

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\$49.00



TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT HOLINESS

This book is designed to help parents and guardians teach their children about holiness. While the lessons are designed primarily for parents and guardians of children between the ages of five and eleven, Sunday school teachers will also find the material helpful to incorporate into classroom discussions.

Lessons include:

- God's Love and the Gospel
- The New Birth and Belonging to Jesus
- Holiness of the Heart
- Our Bodies and Gender Distinction
- Modesty
- Holy Minds and Media
- What's Next

