BIBLE LESSONS FOR KIDS

Kids in the Word

52 Bible Lessons for Ages 6 to 11



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Andrew Dominguez

Trinfinity
Enterprises

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Questions and corrections: andrew@trinfinityenterprises.com

A note before you begin. This book is written to teach the Bible and encourage faith. It shares my understanding of Scripture and is offered for study and spiritual growth. It is not counseling, medical, legal, or financial advice. If you are facing a crisis, a health problem, or a legal or money problem, please reach out to a qualified professional as well as your pastor and church family. To the fullest extent the law allows, Andrew Dominguez, Trinfinity Enterprises, and Andrew Dominguez's heirs, estate, successors, and assigns accept no liability for how this material is used.

A Note on the Bible Translation Used in This Book

My preferred Bible for personal study, teaching, and research is the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB). I chose it because it is a word-for-word translation in today's language, built on the ancient Scripture sources: the Hebrew and Aramaic of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament. I prepared the SLB myself, and the Scripture in this book is taken from it.

Where a literal phrase would mislead an English reader, the SLB gives the writer's meaning in plain words. Words added for sense are set in bold italics so you can see what is in the original and what is not.

The complete Steadfast Literal Bible is free to read, search, download, and print at trinfinityenterprises.com/slb. If you want to check a verse in its full setting or read the translation's preface and principles, that is the place to go.

Above all, my desire is not to promote one translation over another, but to faithfully teach the Word of God, encourage careful examination of the Scriptures, and help readers grow in their knowledge, understanding, and relationship with the Lord.

May every page of this book direct attention not to the translation itself, but to the truth of God's Word and the One whom it reveals.

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To Parents and Teachers

> *And these words which I am commanding you today shall be on your heart. And you shall repeat them to your sons, and you shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you rise up.*
>
> Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (SLB)

Children are never too young to learn about God. Jesus said, Let the little children come to Me. This book is a tool to help you bring them.

Kids in the Word has 52 Bible lessons, one for each week of the year, written for children ages 6 to 11. It walks through the big story of the Bible in order, from creation to the early church, so children see how it all fits together and points to Jesus.

How Each Lesson Works

- **Read it in your Bible.** The Bible passage the lesson is based on. Older children can read it themselves.
- **Story Time.** The Bible story retold in simple words. Read it out loud.
- **Big Truth.** One sentence that sums up what the story teaches. Say it together.
- **Memory Verse.** One verse to learn during the week.
- **Talk About It.** Three questions to talk about together.
- **Family Activity.** A simple, low-cost activity to help the lesson stick.
- **Pray Together.** A short prayer a child can pray.

A lesson takes fifteen to thirty minutes. Many families do it at dinner one night a week, then say the memory verse together each night until the next lesson.

Tips for Different Ages

Ages 6 to 8: Read the story out loud, act it out, and keep it short. Let them help with the activity. Learning the first half of a long memory verse is fine.

Ages 9 to 11: Have them read the Bible passage themselves first. Ask them to retell the story in their own words. Challenge them to learn the whole memory verse.

For Sunday School and Kids' Clubs

These lessons also work for a Sunday school class, a midweek kids' program or a homeschool Bible class. Each lesson can be stretched to fill a longer class time by acting out the story, playing a review game with the memory verse, or doing the activity together.

About the Scripture

Memory verses come from the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB), a word-for-word translation in today's language. Some verses use older or more exact wording than children are used to. Feel free to explain any words they do not know. Words added in English to make the sense clear are printed in bold italics.

The stories themselves are retold in simple words for children and are not direct quotations. Encourage children to read the real passages in their own Bibles as they grow.

The Most Important Lesson

The goal of this book is not just to teach Bible stories. It is to help children know and love Jesus. At the back of the book is a page called How to Become a Child of God. Read it with your children when they are ready, and be ready to talk and pray with them.

Lesson 1: God Made Everything

Read it in your Bible: Genesis 1

Story Time

In the very beginning, before there were any people, animals, trees or even light, there was God. God has always been there.

Then God spoke, and things began to happen! He said, Let there be light, and there was light. He made the sky and the seas. He made dry land with grass and trees and flowers. He hung the sun, the moon and the stars in the sky. He filled the oceans with fish and the air with birds. He made animals of every kind, big ones and small ones, fast ones and slow ones.

God made everything in six days, and when He looked at all He had made, He saw that it was very good. On the seventh day, God rested.

Everything you see, from the tiniest ant to the biggest mountain, God made it.

Big Truth God made everything, and everything He made was good.

MEMORY VERSE

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

Genesis 1:1

Talk About It

1. What is your favorite thing that God made?
2. How do you think God made something out of nothing?
3. What can you thank God for that He made?

Family Activity

Go outside together and find five things God made. Count them on your fingers and thank God for each one.

Pray Together

Thank You, God, for making the whole world, and for making me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 2: God Made People Special

Read it in your Bible: Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7-22

Story Time

After God made the animals, He made something even more special. He made people.

God took dust from the ground and formed the first man, Adam. Then God breathed into him, and Adam came alive! God put Adam in a beautiful garden called Eden, full of good things to eat. God gave Adam a job: take care of the garden and give names to all the animals.

But God saw that Adam was alone, and that was not good. So God made a woman, Eve, to be his wife and helper. Now Adam had someone just like him to love.

God made people different from all the animals. He made us in His own image. That means we can know God, talk with Him, love Him and be His friends. You are not an accident. God made you on purpose.

Big Truth God made me in His image, and He loves me.

MEMORY VERSE

And God created mankind in His image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 1:27

Talk About It

1. How are people different from animals?
2. What does it mean that God made you on purpose?
3. How can you take care of the world God made?

Family Activity

Look in a mirror together. Name three things God made special about each person in your family.

Pray Together

Thank You, God, for making me special. Help me know You and love You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 3: The First Sin

Read it in your Bible: Genesis 3

Story Time

Adam and Eve lived happily in the garden with God. God told them they could eat from every tree except one. If they ate from that tree, they would die.

One day a sneaky serpent came to Eve. He said, Did God really say that? You will not die. You will be like God! Eve looked at the fruit. It looked good. She took some and ate it, and she gave some to Adam, and he ate it too.

Right away, everything changed. Adam and Eve felt ashamed and hid from God. They had disobeyed Him. That is called sin. Because of sin, they had to leave the garden, and sadness, sickness and death came into the world.

But even that day, God made a promise. One day He would send Someone to crush the serpent and fix what sin had broken. That Someone is Jesus.

Big Truth Everyone has sinned, but God promised to send a Savior.

MEMORY VERSE

for all sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 3:23

Talk About It

1. What did Adam and Eve do wrong?
2. How did they feel after they sinned?
3. What promise did God make?

Family Activity

Talk about a time you disobeyed and how it felt. Then talk about how good it feels to be forgiven.

Pray Together

God, I am sorry for the wrong things I do. Thank You for sending Jesus to save me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 4: Noah and the Big Boat

Read it in your Bible: Genesis 6-9

Story Time

After Adam and Eve, people became more and more wicked. They forgot about God and did bad things all the time. It made God sad.

But one man loved God. His name was Noah. God told Noah, I am going to send a great flood. Build a big boat called an ark. Noah obeyed. He built and built, even though people probably laughed at him.

When the ark was done, God sent animals two by two, and Noah's family went inside. Then the rain began. It rained for forty days and forty nights, until water covered the whole earth. But everyone inside the ark was safe.

When the water went down, Noah and his family came out. Noah thanked God. And God put a rainbow in the sky as a promise that He would never flood the whole earth again.

Big Truth God keeps His promises and keeps His people safe.

MEMORY VERSE

My bow I have set in the cloud, and it shall be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth.

Genesis 9:13

Talk About It

1. Why did Noah build the ark when people laughed?
2. How did God keep Noah's family safe?
3. What does the rainbow remind us of?

Family Activity

Draw a rainbow together and write one of God's promises on it.

Pray Together

Thank You, God, that You always keep Your promises. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 5: God's Promise to Abraham

Read it in your Bible: Genesis 12:1-7; 15:5-6; 21:1-7

Story Time

God spoke to a man named Abraham. God said, Leave your home and go to a land I will show you. I will bless you and make you into a great nation. Abraham did not know where he was going, but he trusted God and went.

One night God took Abraham outside and said, Look at the stars. Can you count them? Your family will be like that, too many to count. But Abraham and his wife Sarah were very old, and they had no children. How could that be?

Abraham believed God anyway. Years went by. Then, when Abraham was one hundred years old and Sarah was ninety, God gave them a baby boy! They named him Isaac, which means laughter, because they were so happy.

Nothing is too hard for God.

Big Truth I can trust God, even when I do not understand.

MEMORY VERSE

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and on your **own** understanding do not lean.*

Proverbs 3:5

Talk About It

1. Why was it hard for Abraham to believe God's promise?
2. What did Abraham do even when he did not know where he was going?
3. What is something you need to trust God with?

Family Activity

On a clear night, go outside and look at the stars. Try to count them. Talk about how big God's promises are.

Pray Together

God, help me trust You with all my heart, even when I do not understand. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 6: Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Read it in your Bible: Genesis 37; 39-45; 50:15-21

Story Time

Jacob had twelve sons, but he loved Joseph the most. He gave Joseph a beautiful coat of many colors. Joseph's brothers were jealous. One day they threw Joseph into a pit and sold him to traders, who took him far away to Egypt.

In Egypt, hard things kept happening to Joseph. He was blamed for something he did not do and put in prison. But God was with Joseph the whole time. One day God helped Joseph explain the king's dreams. The king made Joseph the second most powerful man in Egypt!

Years later, his brothers came to Egypt to buy food. They did not recognize Joseph. Joseph could have punished them. Instead, he cried, hugged them and forgave them. He said, You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good.

Big Truth God can turn bad things into good, and He wants me to forgive.

MEMORY VERSE

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 4:32

Talk About It

1. How do you think Joseph felt when his brothers hurt him?
2. Why did Joseph forgive them?
3. Is there someone you need to forgive?

Family Activity

Make a coat of many colors by coloring a paper coat. On each color, write something kind you can do for someone who hurt you.

Pray Together

God, help me forgive others the way You forgive me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 7: Baby Moses in a Basket

Read it in your Bible: Exodus 1:22-2:10

Story Time

God's people, the Israelites, were living in Egypt, and there were many of them. A new king, called Pharaoh, was afraid of them. He made them slaves, and he gave a terrible order: every baby boy must be thrown into the Nile River.

One mother had a baby boy, and she hid him for three months. When he got too big to hide, she made a basket, covered it with tar so it would float, put her baby inside, and set it among the tall reeds by the river. His big sister Miriam watched to see what would happen.

Pharaoh's own daughter came down to the river and found the basket. When she saw the crying baby, she felt sorry for him and decided to keep him. Miriam ran up and said, Shall I find someone to feed the baby? And she brought the baby's own mother! The princess named him Moses.

God was taking care of Moses all along.

Big Truth God takes care of me, even when I am small.

MEMORY VERSE

having cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares about you.

1 Peter 5:7

Talk About It

1. How did Moses' mother and sister take care of him?
2. How did God take care of Moses?
3. When has God taken care of you?

Family Activity

Make a small boat out of paper or foil and see if it floats in a sink. Talk about how God watched over baby Moses.

Pray Together

Thank You, God, that You care about me. I give You my worries. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 8: Crossing the Red Sea

Read it in your Bible: Exodus 14

Story Time

When Moses grew up, God sent him to tell Pharaoh, Let My people go! Pharaoh said no, again and again, until God sent ten plagues on Egypt. Finally Pharaoh let the Israelites leave.

But then Pharaoh changed his mind. He sent his whole army with chariots and horses to bring them back. The Israelites were trapped. In front of them was the Red Sea. Behind them was the army. They were very afraid.

Moses said, Do not be afraid. The LORD will fight for you. God told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea. A strong wind blew all night, and the water split apart, with walls of water on each side! The Israelites walked across on dry ground.

When the Egyptian army tried to follow, the water came crashing back down. God's people were safe.

Big Truth God is more powerful than anything I face.

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD will fight for you, and you, you shall keep silent.

Exodus 14:14

Talk About It

1. Why were the Israelites afraid?
2. How did God rescue them?
3. What can you do when you are afraid?

Family Activity

Fill a pan with water and use your hands to part it. Talk about how big and strong God is.

Pray Together

God, You are strong. When I am afraid, help me remember that You fight for me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 9: God Gives the Ten Commandments

Read it in your Bible: Exodus 19-20

Story Time

After God brought His people out of Egypt, they camped at the bottom of a big mountain called Mount Sinai. The mountain shook, and there was thunder, lightning and a loud trumpet sound. God was coming down to meet with them!

God called Moses up the mountain and gave him ten rules, written on two flat stones. We call them the Ten Commandments. They tell us how to love God and how to love other people. Worship only God. Do not make idols. Honor God's name. Keep a day of rest. Honor your father and mother. Do not murder. Be faithful in marriage. Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not want what belongs to someone else.

God gave these rules because He loves His people and wanted them to live in a good way. Nobody can keep them perfectly. That is one reason we need Jesus.

Big Truth God's rules show me how to love God and love others.

MEMORY VERSE

If you love Me, keep My commandments.

John 14:15

Talk About It

1. Which commandment do you think is hardest to keep?
2. Why does God give us rules?
3. How does keeping God's rules show that we love Him?

Family Activity

Draw two stone tablets. On one, write ways to love God. On the other, write ways to love people.

Pray Together

God, thank You for showing me how to live. Help me love You by obeying You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 10: Bread From Heaven

Read it in your Bible: Exodus 16

Story Time

God's people walked through the desert for a long time. There were no stores and no farms. Soon they were hungry, and they began to complain.

God heard them. He said, I will rain bread from heaven for you. The next morning, the ground was covered with small white flakes. The people said, What is it? They called it manna. It tasted like wafers made with honey.

God gave them one rule: gather only enough for today. If they kept extra, it would spoil. But on the sixth day, they could gather two days' worth, so they could rest on the seventh day. Every morning for forty years, God sent manna. He never forgot even once.

God wanted His people to learn to trust Him one day at a time.

Big Truth God gives me what I need every day.

MEMORY VERSE

Give us today our daily bread.

Matthew 6:11

Talk About It

1. What did God send His people when they were hungry?
2. Why did God tell them to gather only enough for one day?
3. What are some things God gives you every day?

Family Activity

At a meal this week, have each person thank God for one thing He gives every day.

Pray Together

Thank You, God, for giving me what I need today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 11: The Walls of Jericho

Read it in your Bible: Joshua 6

Story Time

After Moses died, God made Joshua the new leader. God was giving His people the land He had promised. But the first city, Jericho, had huge walls all around it.

God gave Joshua a strange plan. March around the city once a day for six days, with priests blowing trumpets. On the seventh day, march around seven times. Then blow the trumpets, and everyone shout!

That must have seemed silly. Who knocks down walls by walking and shouting? But Joshua and the people obeyed exactly what God said. On the seventh day, after the seventh time around, the trumpets blew, the people shouted, and the walls of Jericho fell flat!

God does not need our big plans. He wants us to listen and obey.

Big Truth When I obey God, I can trust Him with the results.

MEMORY VERSE

*But be doers of **the** word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

James 1:22

Talk About It

1. What was strange about God's plan?
2. What did the people do?
3. Is there something God wants you to obey, even if it seems hard?

Family Activity

Build a wall with blocks or cups. March around it seven times, then shout and knock it down. Talk about obeying God.

Pray Together

God, help me not just hear Your word, but do it. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 12: Gideon and the Small Army

Read it in your Bible: Judges 6-7

Story Time

God's people were being bullied by an enemy army. One day an angel came to a young man named Gideon, who was hiding while he worked. The angel said, The LORD is with you, mighty warrior! Gideon said, Me? I am the weakest person in the weakest family!

But God chose Gideon to save His people. Gideon gathered 32,000 soldiers. God said, That is too many. Send some home. Then God said again, Still too many. In the end, Gideon had only 300 men. The enemy army was so big it looked like a swarm of locusts.

At night, Gideon's 300 men surrounded the enemy camp with trumpets and torches hidden in jars. They blew the trumpets, smashed the jars, and shouted. The enemy was so confused they ran away! Everyone knew God had won the battle.

Big Truth God can use me, even if I feel small or weak.

MEMORY VERSE

*I have strength **for** all things in the **One** who strengthens me, Christ.*

Philippians 4:13

Talk About It

1. Why did God make Gideon's army so small?
2. How did Gideon feel when God chose him?
3. How could God use you?

Family Activity

Make a pretend torch from a paper towel tube and yellow paper. Talk about times you feel small and how God can use you.

Pray Together

God, when I feel weak, help me remember that You are strong in me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 13: Ruth Stays Loyal

Read it in your Bible: Ruth 1-4

Story Time

Naomi was very sad. Her husband and both her sons had died while they lived in a faraway land. She decided to go back home to Bethlehem. She told her two daughters-in-law to go back to their own families.

One of them, Orpah, kissed Naomi goodbye. But the other one, Ruth, would not leave. Ruth said, Where you go, I will go. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

In Bethlehem, Ruth worked hard picking up leftover grain in the fields to feed Naomi. The field belonged to a kind man named Boaz. Boaz saw how loyal Ruth was, and he was kind to her. Later, Boaz married Ruth. They had a baby named Obed, who became the grandfather of King David. And many years later, Jesus was born into that same family!

Big Truth God is kind to me, and He wants me to be kind and loyal too.

MEMORY VERSE

*Give thanks to the LORD, for **He is** good, for His steadfast love **is** forever.*

Psalm 136:1

Talk About It

1. How did Ruth show she was loyal to Naomi?
2. How did God take care of Ruth and Naomi?
3. Who can you be loyal and kind to this week?

Family Activity

Do something kind for an older person you know: make a card, help with a chore, or visit.

Pray Together

Thank You, God, for Your steadfast love. Help me be loyal and kind like Ruth. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 14: Samuel Listens to God

Read it in your Bible: 1 Samuel 3

Story Time

Remember Hannah, who prayed for a baby? God gave her a son named Samuel, and when he was little, she brought him to live at God's house to help Eli the priest.

One night, Samuel was lying down when he heard someone call, Samuel! He ran to Eli. Here I am! But Eli said, I did not call you. Go back to bed. It happened again, and again. The third time, Eli understood. It was God calling Samuel!

Eli told Samuel, If He calls again, say, Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening. So when God called again, Samuel answered just that way. God gave Samuel an important message. Samuel grew up to be a great prophet who listened to God all his life.

God still speaks today, mostly through His Word, the Bible. We can listen too.

Big Truth God speaks through His Word, and I can listen.

MEMORY VERSE

And the LORD came and stood and called as time after time, "Samuel, Samuel."
And Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant is listening."
1 Samuel 3:10

Talk About It

1. How many times did God call Samuel?
2. How did Samuel answer God?
3. How can you listen to God?

Family Activity

Play a listening game: one person whispers a message, and others try to hear it. Talk about how we listen to God by reading the Bible.

Pray Together

Speak, Lord, I am listening. Help me hear You when I read the Bible. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 15: David and Goliath

Read it in your Bible: 1 Samuel 17

Story Time

The Israelite army was facing the Philistine army. Every day, a giant named Goliath came out and shouted, Send someone to fight me! Goliath was over nine feet tall, with heavy armor and a huge spear. All of Israel's soldiers were terrified.

A young shepherd boy named David came to bring food to his brothers. When he heard Goliath making fun of God, David said, I will fight him! The king offered David his armor, but it was too big. So David took his shepherd's sling and five smooth stones.

Goliath laughed at him. But David said, You come with a sword and a spear, but I come in the name of the LORD! David swung his sling, and one stone hit Goliath right in the forehead. The giant fell down! God gave David the victory.

Big Truth God is bigger than my biggest problem.

MEMORY VERSE

***In the** day I fear, I will trust in You.*

Psalm 56:3

Talk About It

1. Why was everyone afraid of Goliath?
2. Why was David not afraid?
3. What is a giant problem you can trust God with?

Family Activity

Measure nine feet on the floor or wall with tape. Talk about how big Goliath was, and how much bigger God is.

Pray Together

God, when I am afraid, I will trust in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 16: David and Jonathan, Best Friends

Read it in your Bible: 1 Samuel 18:1-4; 20

Story Time

After David beat Goliath, he went to live at King Saul's palace. There he met the king's son, Jonathan. Jonathan and David became best friends. Jonathan loved David as much as he loved himself. He even gave David his own robe, sword and bow.

But King Saul became jealous of David, because the people loved David. Saul wanted to hurt David. Jonathan could have taken his father's side. Instead, he warned David and helped him escape. Jonathan and David promised to be friends forever, and to take care of each other's families.

Years later, when David became king, he remembered his promise. He found Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth, who could not walk, and invited him to eat at the king's table every day.

A true friend sticks with you, even when it is hard.

Big Truth God wants me to be a true friend.

MEMORY VERSE

At every time the friend loves, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 17:17

Talk About It

1. How did Jonathan show he was a good friend?
2. How did David keep his promise?
3. What makes someone a good friend?

Family Activity

Make a friendship card for a friend, and write one reason you are thankful for them.

Pray Together

God, thank You for my friends. Help me be a true friend. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 17: The Lord Is My Shepherd

Read it in your Bible: Psalm 23

Story Time

Before he was a king, David was a shepherd. He spent his days and nights taking care of sheep. Sheep need a lot of help. They wander off. They get scared. They cannot find water by themselves. They cannot fight off wolves or lions.

A good shepherd leads his sheep to green grass and quiet water. He finds them when they are lost. He protects them with his rod and staff. He knows each one by name.

One day David wrote a song about God. He said, The LORD is my shepherd. David knew that he was like a sheep, and God was like a good shepherd who took care of him in every way.

Many years later, Jesus said, I am the good shepherd. He loves His sheep so much that He gave His life for them.

Big Truth Jesus is my Good Shepherd, and He takes care of me.

MEMORY VERSE

*The LORD **is** my shepherd; I will not lack.*

Psalm 23:1

Talk About It

1. What does a shepherd do for his sheep?
2. How is God like a shepherd?
3. How has God taken care of you?

Family Activity

Read all of Psalm 23 together. Make a sheep with cotton balls and paper, and write your name on it.

Pray Together

Thank You, Jesus, for being my Good Shepherd. Amen.

Lesson 18: Solomon Asks for Wisdom

Read it in your Bible: 1 Kings 3

Story Time

After David died, his son Solomon became king. Solomon was young, and being king was a big job. One night God came to Solomon in a dream and said, Ask for whatever you want, and I will give it to you.

What would you ask for? Toys? Money? Solomon could have asked to be rich or to beat all his enemies. But he said, I am young, and I do not know how to lead. Please give me wisdom, so I can know right from wrong.

God was so pleased! He said, Because you asked for wisdom, I will give you wisdom, and I will also give you riches and honor. Solomon became the wisest king who ever lived. People came from far away just to hear him.

Wisdom means knowing the right thing to do and doing it. God gives wisdom to anyone who asks.

Big Truth When I do not know what to do, I can ask God for wisdom.

MEMORY VERSE

And if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask from God, who gives to all generously and does not reproach, and it will be given to him.

James 1:5

Talk About It

1. What did Solomon ask God for?
2. Why was God pleased?
3. When do you need wisdom?

Family Activity

Play a game of choices: one person names a situation, and the others say what the wise thing to do would be.

Pray Together

God, please give me wisdom to know the right thing to do. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 19: Elijah and the Fire From Heaven

Read it in your Bible: 1 Kings 18:16-39

Story Time

Many of God's people had started worshiping a fake god named Baal. The prophet Elijah said, Let us have a contest! Elijah would build an altar to God. The 450 prophets of Baal would build an altar to Baal. Whichever god sent fire from heaven was the true God.

The prophets of Baal went first. They called, Baal, answer us! They shouted and danced all day long. Nothing happened. Elijah teased them: Shout louder! Maybe he is asleep!

Then Elijah built his altar. He even poured water all over it, three times, until the water filled a ditch around it. Then Elijah prayed a simple prayer. Right away, fire fell from heaven and burned up everything, even the water and the stones!

The people fell down and said, The LORD, He is God!

Big Truth There is only one true God, and He is powerful.

MEMORY VERSE

*For You **are** great and do wonders; You **are** God, You alone.*

Psalm 86:10

Talk About It

1. What happened when the prophets of Baal called out?
2. What happened when Elijah prayed?
3. Why is it important to worship only the true God?

Family Activity

Talk about things people sometimes care about more than God, like toys, games or screens. Pray together that God would be first.

Pray Together

God, You alone are God. You are great, and You do wonderful things. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 20: Elijah and the Widow's Jar

Read it in your Bible: 1 Kings 17:7-16

Story Time

There was no rain for a long time, and food ran out. God told Elijah to go to a town where a widow would feed him. When Elijah got there, he asked the widow for a little water and some bread.

The widow said, I only have a handful of flour and a little oil. I was going to make one last meal for my son and me, and then we will die. Elijah said, Do not be afraid. Make me a small loaf first, then make some for yourselves. God says your flour and oil will not run out until the rain comes again.

The widow trusted God and did what Elijah said. And it happened just as God promised! Every day there was enough flour and oil. The jar never ran empty.

God takes care of people who trust Him.

Big Truth God provides what I need when I trust Him.

MEMORY VERSE

And my God will fill every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

Talk About It

1. Why was the widow afraid?
2. What did she do even though she was afraid?
3. How has God provided for your family?

Family Activity

Bake a simple bread or muffins together. While you work, talk about the widow's jar that never ran out.

Pray Together

Thank You, God, that You know what I need and You provide for me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 21: Naaman Is Healed

Read it in your Bible: 2 Kings 5:1-15

Story Time

Naaman was a great army commander, but he had a terrible skin disease called leprosy. A little servant girl in his house, who had been taken from Israel, said, I wish my master would go to the prophet in Israel. He would heal him!

So Naaman went to see the prophet Elisha. But Elisha did not even come out. He sent a message: Go wash in the Jordan River seven times, and you will be healed.

Naaman was angry! He wanted something big and important. The Jordan was a muddy little river. But his servants said, If he had asked you to do something hard, you would have done it. Why not do this simple thing?

So Naaman went down to the Jordan and dipped seven times. When he came up the seventh time, his skin was clean, like a little child's! Naaman said, Now I know there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.

Big Truth God can heal, and He wants me to be humble and obey.

MEMORY VERSE

Bless the LORD, my soul, and do not forget all His benefits

Psalm 103:2

Talk About It

1. How did a little girl help Naaman?
2. Why was Naaman angry at first?
3. What made Naaman change his mind?

Family Activity

Count to seven together while washing your hands, and talk about how Naaman obeyed God.

Pray Together

God, help me never forget all the good things You do for me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 22: King Josiah Finds the Book

Read it in your Bible: 2 Kings 22-23

Story Time

Josiah became king when he was only eight years old! Even as a boy, he wanted to follow God.

When Josiah grew up, he decided to fix up God's temple, which had been neglected for a long time. While the workers were cleaning, the priest found something amazing: the Book of the Law, God's Word! It had been lost for years.

When the book was read to Josiah, he tore his clothes and cried. He realized that his people had not been obeying God at all. So Josiah gathered all the people and read God's Word to them out loud. Then he promised to follow God with all his heart, and he got rid of all the idols in the land.

God's Word is a treasure. When we read it, it shows us how to live.

Big Truth God's Word is a treasure that shows me how to live.

MEMORY VERSE

*A lamp to my foot **is** Your word, and a light to my pathway.*

Psalm 119:105

Talk About It

1. How old was Josiah when he became king?
2. What did the workers find in the temple?
3. How can you treat the Bible like a treasure?

Family Activity

Hide a Bible somewhere in the house and have a treasure hunt. When you find it, read a favorite verse together.

Pray Together

Thank You, God, for the Bible. Let it be a light that shows me the way. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 23: Brave Queen Esther

Read it in your Bible: Esther 2-8

Story Time

Esther was a young Jewish woman who became queen of Persia. But nobody in the palace knew she was Jewish.

One of the king's top men, Haman, hated the Jewish people. He tricked the king into making a law that all the Jews would be killed. Esther's cousin Mordecai told her, You must go to the king and ask him to save your people. Who knows? Maybe God made you queen for a time like this.

But there was a problem. Anyone who went to the king without being called could be put to death. Esther asked all the Jews to pray and fast for her. Then she said, I will go to the king. If I die, I die.

The king held out his golden scepter and welcomed her. Esther told him the truth, and the king saved her people. God used Esther's courage to rescue them.

Big Truth God can use me to help others when I am brave.

MEMORY VERSE

I sought the LORD, and He answered me, and from all my fears He rescued me.

Psalm 34:4

Talk About It

1. Why was it dangerous for Esther to go to the king?
2. What did Esther do before she went?
3. When do you need to be brave?

Family Activity

Make a paper crown. Write on it one brave thing you can do to help someone.

Pray Together

God, when I am afraid, help me seek You and be brave. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 24: Daniel and the Lions

Read it in your Bible: Daniel 6

Story Time

Daniel loved God and prayed to Him three times every day, by his open window. Daniel was so good at his job that the king wanted to put him in charge of the whole kingdom. Some other leaders were jealous.

They tricked the king into making a law: for thirty days, nobody could pray to anyone except the king. Anyone who broke the law would be thrown into a den of lions.

What did Daniel do? He went home, opened his window and prayed to God, just like always. The jealous men caught him, and the king sadly had Daniel thrown into the lions' den.

The next morning, the king ran to the den and called, Daniel! Did your God save you? Daniel answered, My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths! Daniel was not hurt at all, because he trusted God.

Big Truth I can pray to God anytime, and He is with me.

MEMORY VERSE

Pray unceasingly.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Talk About It

1. What did Daniel do every day?
2. Why did Daniel keep praying even when it was against the law?
3. When can you pray to God?

Family Activity

Pick three times a day this week to pray together as a family, like Daniel did.

Pray Together

God, thank You that I can talk to You anytime. Help me pray every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 25: Three Friends in the Fire

Read it in your Bible: Daniel 3

Story Time

King Nebuchadnezzar built a giant gold statue, ninety feet tall. He ordered everyone to bow down to it when the music played. Anyone who did not would be thrown into a blazing furnace.

When the music played, everyone bowed down, except three young men: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They loved God and would not worship an idol.

The king was furious. He gave them one more chance. They said, Our God is able to save us. But even if He does not, we will not bow down. The king had the furnace heated seven times hotter, and the three friends were tied up and thrown in.

Then the king jumped up. Did we not throw three men in? I see four men walking around in the fire, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods! The three friends came out without even the smell of smoke on them.

Big Truth God is with me, even in hard times.

MEMORY VERSE

*God **is** a refuge and strength for us, a help in troubles, found abundantly.*

Psalm 46:1

Talk About It

1. Why would the three friends not bow down?
2. Who was the fourth person in the fire?
3. How does it help to know God is with you in hard times?

Family Activity

Talk about a hard time your family went through. How was God with you?

Pray Together

God, You are my safe place and my strength. Thank You for being with me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 26: Jonah Runs Away

Read it in your Bible: Jonah 1-3

Story Time

God told Jonah, Go to the big city of Nineveh and tell them to stop doing evil. But Jonah did not want to go. The people of Nineveh were enemies. So Jonah got on a ship going the opposite way!

God sent a huge storm. The sailors were terrified. Jonah said, It is my fault. Throw me into the sea. When they did, the storm stopped. And God sent a great fish to swallow Jonah!

Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights. There he prayed and called out to God, and God heard him. Then the fish spit Jonah out onto dry land.

God told Jonah again, Go to Nineveh. This time Jonah obeyed. The people of Nineveh listened, said they were sorry, and turned to God. And God forgave them.

God gives second chances.

Big Truth When I am sorry for my sin, God forgives me and gives me another chance.

MEMORY VERSE

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous so that He may forgive us the sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Talk About It

1. Why did Jonah run away from God?
2. What did Jonah do inside the fish?
3. What does this story teach about God's forgiveness?

Family Activity

Talk about a time someone gave you a second chance. Then think of someone you can give a second chance to.

Pray Together

God, when I do wrong, help me tell You I am sorry. Thank You for forgiving me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 27: An Angel Visits Mary

Read it in your Bible: Luke 1:26-38

Story Time

Hundreds of years passed. God's people were still waiting for the Savior God had promised. Then one day, God sent the angel Gabriel to a young woman named Mary in the town of Nazareth.

The angel said, Greetings! The Lord is with you. Mary was confused and a little afraid. The angel said, Do not be afraid, Mary. You will have a baby boy, and you will name Him Jesus. He will be the Son of the Most High God, and His kingdom will never end.

Mary asked, How can this be? The angel explained that the Holy Spirit would make it happen, and the baby would be God's own Son. Then he said, Nothing is impossible with God.

Mary answered, I am the Lord's servant. Let it happen as you have said.

Big Truth Nothing is impossible for God.

MEMORY VERSE

For with God no declaration will be impossible.

Luke 1:37

Talk About It

1. What news did the angel bring to Mary?
2. How did Mary answer?
3. What seems impossible to you that God can do?

Family Activity

Make a list together of impossible things God has done in the Bible stories you have learned so far.

Pray Together

God, nothing is impossible for You. Help me trust You like Mary did. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 28: Jesus Is Born

Read it in your Bible: Luke 2:1-7

Story Time

The ruler of the whole Roman Empire decided to count all the people. Everyone had to go to their family's hometown. So Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, the town of King David.

Mary was about to have her baby. When they got to Bethlehem, the town was crowded, and there was no room for them in the guest room. So when Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in cloths and laid Him in a manger, a feeding box for animals.

Think about it. The Son of God, who made the whole world, was born as a tiny baby and slept in an animal's feeding box. He did not come as a rich king in a palace. He came humble and small, for everyone, rich and poor.

That first Christmas, God kept His promise. The Savior had come!

Big Truth Jesus, God's Son, came to earth as a baby to save us.

MEMORY VERSE

*For there has been born to you today a Savior, who is Christ **the** Lord, in **the** city of David.*

Luke 2:11

Talk About It

1. Where was Jesus born?
2. Why do you think God sent Jesus as a baby in a manger?
3. What is the best part of Christmas?

Family Activity

Set up a nativity scene or draw one. Talk about how each person in the story felt.

Pray Together

Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to be my Savior. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 29: The Shepherds Hear the News

Read it in your Bible: Luke 2:8-20

Story Time

On the night Jesus was born, some shepherds were in the fields near Bethlehem, watching their sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared, and the glory of the Lord shone all around them. They were terrified!

The angel said, Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you. He is Christ the Lord. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Then the whole sky filled with angels praising God! When the angels left, the shepherds said, Let us go see! They hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary, Joseph and the baby, just as the angel said.

The shepherds could not keep quiet. They told everyone what they had seen and heard, and they went back praising God.

Big Truth The good news about Jesus is for everyone, and I can share it.

MEMORY VERSE

And the angel said to them, "Do not fear; for look, I announce to you great joy as good news, which will be to all the people."

Luke 2:10

Talk About It

1. How did the shepherds feel when they saw the angel?
2. What did they do after they saw Jesus?
3. Who can you tell about Jesus?

Family Activity

Make a card for a neighbor or friend that tells the good news that Jesus was born to be our Savior.

Pray Together

God, thank You for the good news of Jesus. Help me share it with others. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 30: The Wise Men Worship Jesus

Read it in your Bible: Matthew 2:1-12

Story Time

Far away in the East, some wise men saw a special star in the sky. They knew it meant a new king had been born. So they packed their camels and traveled a long, long way to find Him.

They went to Jerusalem and asked, Where is the one born King of the Jews? King Herod heard about it and was upset. He did not want another king! He told the wise men, When you find Him, tell me, so I can worship Him too. But Herod was lying. He wanted to hurt Jesus.

The star led the wise men to the house where Jesus was. They were filled with joy! They bowed down and worshiped Him, and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Then God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod, so they went home another way.

Big Truth Jesus is the King, and I can worship Him.

MEMORY VERSE

Come, let us bow down and bend low; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

Psalm 95:6

Talk About It

1. How did the wise men find Jesus?
2. What did they do when they found Him?
3. What can you give to Jesus?

Family Activity

Talk about gifts you can give Jesus, like your time, your kindness, your songs and your heart. Sing a song of worship together.

Pray Together

Jesus, You are the King. I bow down and worship You. Amen.

Lesson 31: Boy Jesus at the Temple

Read it in your Bible: Luke 2:41-52

Story Time

When Jesus was twelve years old, His family went to Jerusalem for a big celebration called the Passover. When it was over, Mary and Joseph started home with a big group of family and friends. They thought Jesus was somewhere in the group.

But after a whole day, they could not find Him! They hurried back to Jerusalem and searched for three days. Finally they found Him in the temple, sitting with the teachers, listening and asking questions. Everyone was amazed at how much He understood.

Mary said, Son, we have been so worried! Jesus said, Did you not know I had to be in My Father's house? Then Jesus went home with them and obeyed them.

As Jesus grew up, He grew in wisdom and in size, and He grew in favor with God and people.

Big Truth I can grow in wisdom and love for God, even while I am young.

MEMORY VERSE

And Jesus was advancing in wisdom and stature and favor with God and men.

Luke 2:52

Talk About It

1. Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus?
2. What was Jesus doing there?
3. How can you grow closer to God as you grow up?

Family Activity

Measure how tall each child is and mark it. Talk about ways to grow on the inside too: reading the Bible, praying, obeying.

Pray Together

God, help me grow in wisdom and in love for You and others. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 32: Jesus Is Baptized

Read it in your Bible: Matthew 3:13-17

Story Time

When Jesus grew up, His cousin John was baptizing people in the Jordan River. John told people to turn from their sins and get ready, because the Savior was coming.

One day, Jesus came to the river and asked John to baptize Him. John said, I should be baptized by You! Jesus never sinned, so He did not need to turn from sin. But Jesus wanted to do everything that was right, and to show He was one with the people He came to save.

So John baptized Jesus. As Jesus came up out of the water, heaven opened, and the Holy Spirit came down on Him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, This is My Son, whom I love. I am very pleased with Him.

At Jesus' baptism, we see God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, all together.

Big Truth Jesus is God's Son, and the Father loves Him.

MEMORY VERSE

And look, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My Son, the beloved, in whom I was well pleased."

Matthew 3:17

Talk About It

1. What happened when Jesus came up out of the water?
2. What did God the Father say about Jesus?
3. Who in your family has been baptized? Ask them about it.

Family Activity

Look at pictures of a family member's baptism, or talk with your pastor about what baptism means.

Pray Together

Thank You, Father, for sending Your Son Jesus, whom You love. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 33: Jesus Is Tempted

Read it in your Bible: Matthew 4:1-11

Story Time

After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the desert. For forty days, Jesus did not eat anything, and He was very hungry. Then the devil came to tempt Him.

The devil said, If You are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread. Jesus answered with God's Word: People do not live on bread alone, but on every word from God.

The devil tried again and again. He took Jesus to the top of the temple and dared Him to jump. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and said, I will give You all this if You worship me. Each time, Jesus answered with Scripture. Finally Jesus said, Go away, Satan! Worship God only! And the devil left.

Jesus never gave in to temptation. And He shows us how to fight temptation too: with God's Word.

Big Truth God's Word helps me say no to temptation.

MEMORY VERSE

In my heart I have treasured Your word, so that I will not sin against You.

Psalm 119:11

Talk About It

1. How did Jesus answer the devil each time?
2. What is temptation?
3. What Bible verse can help you when you are tempted?

Family Activity

Write this week's memory verse on a card and put it where you will see it every day.

Pray Together

God, help me hide Your Word in my heart so I will not sin against You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 34: Jesus Calls the Fishermen

Read it in your Bible: Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:1-11

Story Time

Peter and his brother Andrew were fishermen. They had fished all night and caught nothing. In the morning, Jesus got into Peter's boat and taught the crowd on the shore. Then He said, Go out into the deep water and let down your nets.

Peter said, We worked all night and caught nothing. But because You say so, I will. When they let down the nets, they caught so many fish that the nets began to break! They called their friends James and John to help, and both boats were so full they almost sank.

Peter fell at Jesus' feet. Jesus said, Do not be afraid. Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of people. Right away, Peter, Andrew, James and John left their boats and nets and followed Jesus.

Big Truth Jesus calls me to follow Him and help others know Him.

MEMORY VERSE

And He says to them, "Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19

Talk About It

1. What happened when Peter obeyed Jesus?
2. What did Jesus mean by fishers of people?
3. How can you follow Jesus?

Family Activity

Cut out paper fish. On each one, write the name of someone you want to know about Jesus. Pray for them this week.

Pray Together

Jesus, I want to follow You. Help me tell others about You. Amen.

Lesson 35: Jesus Turns Water Into Wine

Read it in your Bible: John 2:1-11

Story Time

Jesus, His mother Mary and His disciples went to a wedding in a town called Cana. In those days, wedding parties lasted for days. But in the middle of the party, the wine ran out! That would be very embarrassing for the family.

Mary told Jesus about the problem. Then she said to the servants, Do whatever He tells you.

There were six big stone jars nearby. Jesus told the servants, Fill the jars with water. They filled them to the top. Then Jesus said, Now take some to the man in charge of the party. When he tasted it, the water had become wine, and it was the best wine of the whole party!

This was the first miracle Jesus did. It showed His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

Big Truth Jesus has power over everything, and I should do whatever He says.

MEMORY VERSE

*His mother says to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do **it**."*

John 2:5

Talk About It

1. What problem happened at the wedding?
2. What did Mary tell the servants?
3. What does Jesus tell us to do in the Bible?

Family Activity

Fill clear cups with water and add a drop of food coloring to see the water change. Talk about how only Jesus can do real miracles.

Pray Together

Jesus, help me do whatever You tell me in Your Word. Amen.

Lesson 36: Jesus Calms the Storm

Read it in your Bible: Mark 4:35-41

Story Time

One evening, Jesus and His disciples got into a boat to cross a lake. Jesus was tired, so He lay down in the back of the boat with His head on a cushion and fell asleep.

Suddenly a huge storm came up. The wind howled. Big waves crashed into the boat, and it started filling with water. The disciples were terrified! They woke Jesus up and shouted, Teacher, do You not care that we are going to drown?

Jesus got up. He spoke to the wind and said to the waves, Quiet! Be still! Right away, the wind stopped, and the lake became completely calm.

Jesus asked them, Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith? The disciples were amazed. They said to each other, Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!

Big Truth Jesus is with me in the storms of life, and He is in control.

MEMORY VERSE

And they feared a great fear, and they were saying to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

Mark 4:41

Talk About It

1. Why were the disciples afraid?
2. What did Jesus do?
3. What storms, or scary things, can you trust Jesus with?

Family Activity

Make a storm in a bowl of water by blowing and splashing, then make it still. Talk about how Jesus calms our fears.

Pray Together

Jesus, even the wind and waves obey You. Help me trust You when I am afraid. Amen.

Lesson 37: Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

Read it in your Bible: John 6:1-14

Story Time

A huge crowd followed Jesus to a hillside to hear Him teach. There were five thousand men, plus women and children. As it got late, everyone was hungry, and there was no place to buy food.

Jesus asked His disciple Philip, Where can we buy bread for all these people? Philip said, Even a lot of money would not buy enough for everyone to have a bite! Then Andrew said, There is a boy here with five small loaves of bread and two fish. But what is that for so many?

Jesus had everyone sit down on the grass. He took the boy's lunch, thanked God for it and passed it out. Everyone ate as much as they wanted! Afterward, the disciples picked up twelve baskets of leftovers.

A boy gave Jesus what he had, and Jesus used it to feed thousands.

Big Truth When I give Jesus what I have, He can do amazing things with it.

MEMORY VERSE

*Give thanks to the LORD, for **He is** good, for His steadfast love **is** forever.*

Psalm 136:1

Talk About It

1. What did the boy give Jesus?
2. What did Jesus do with it?
3. What can you give to Jesus?

Family Activity

Pack a lunch together for someone in need, or donate food to a food pantry.

Pray Together

Thank You, God, for all You give me. Help me share with others. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 38: Jesus Walks on Water

Read it in your Bible: Matthew 14:22-33

Story Time

After feeding the five thousand, Jesus sent His disciples across the lake in a boat while He went up on a mountain to pray. During the night, the wind was strong and the waves were rough.

Very early in the morning, the disciples saw someone walking toward them on the water! They screamed, It is a ghost! But Jesus said, Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.

Peter said, Lord, if it is You, tell me to come to You on the water. Jesus said, Come! Peter climbed out of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus! But when Peter looked at the wind and waves, he got scared and began to sink. He cried, Lord, save me! Right away Jesus reached out His hand and caught him.

When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. The disciples worshiped Jesus and said, Truly You are the Son of God.

Big Truth When I keep my eyes on Jesus, I can trust Him, and He will catch me.

MEMORY VERSE

*But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage; I am **He**; do not be afraid."*

Matthew 14:27

Talk About It

1. What happened when Peter looked at the waves?
2. What did Jesus do when Peter cried for help?
3. How can you keep your eyes on Jesus?

Family Activity

Play a game where one person walks across the room while keeping their eyes on a family member at the other end. Talk about keeping our eyes on Jesus.

Pray Together

Jesus, help me keep my eyes on You and not be afraid. Amen.

Lesson 39: The Good Samaritan

Read it in your Bible: Luke 10:25-37

Story Time

A man asked Jesus, Who is my neighbor? Jesus answered with a story.

A man was walking down a road when robbers attacked him. They beat him up, took his clothes and left him lying hurt by the road.

A priest came by. He saw the hurt man, but he crossed to the other side of the road and kept going. Then a temple helper came by. He also passed by on the other side.

Then a Samaritan came by. Jews and Samaritans did not like each other. But when the Samaritan saw the hurt man, he felt sorry for him. He bandaged his wounds, put him on his own donkey, took him to an inn and paid for him to stay until he got better.

Jesus asked, Which one was a good neighbor? The man answered, The one who showed mercy. Jesus said, Go and do the same.

Big Truth I should show kindness to everyone, even people who are different from me.

MEMORY VERSE

And just as you desire that men do to you, you also do to them likewise.

Luke 6:31

Talk About It

1. Who passed by the hurt man?
2. Who helped him, and why was that surprising?
3. Who can you be a good neighbor to?

Family Activity

Make a small first aid kit or a care bag with snacks and socks to give to someone in need.

Pray Together

God, help me treat others the way I want to be treated. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 40: The Lost Sheep

Read it in your Bible: Luke 15:3-7

Story Time

Jesus told a story about a shepherd who had one hundred sheep. One day he counted them: ninety-seven, ninety-eight, ninety-nine. One was missing!

The shepherd did not say, Oh well, I still have ninety-nine. He left the ninety-nine in a safe place and went looking for the one lost sheep. He searched and searched until he found it. Then he put it on his shoulders and carried it home, full of joy. He called his friends and neighbors and said, Celebrate with me! I found my lost sheep!

Jesus said heaven is like that. There is great joy in heaven when one lost person turns back to God.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. He came to look for people who are lost and bring them home.

Big Truth Jesus came to find and save people who are lost, and He loves each one.

MEMORY VERSE

for the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which has been lost.

Luke 19:10

Talk About It

1. How did the shepherd feel when he found his sheep?
2. Why did he go after just one sheep?
3. How does it feel to know Jesus loves you that much?

Family Activity

Hide a toy sheep or stuffed animal and let the children search for it. Celebrate when it is found.

Pray Together

Thank You, Jesus, for coming to find me and save me. Amen.

Lesson 41: The Son Who Came Home

Read it in your Bible: Luke 15:11-24

Story Time

Jesus told a story about a father with two sons. The younger son said, Give me my share of your money now. Then he left home and went far away. He wasted all his money on wild living.

Soon his money was gone, and there was no food in the land. The son got a job feeding pigs, and he was so hungry he wanted to eat the pig food! Then he thought, My father's workers have plenty to eat. I will go home and say, Father, I have sinned. I am not worthy to be your son. Make me one of your workers.

While he was still far away, his father saw him. The father ran to him, hugged him and kissed him! He said, Bring the best robe! Put a ring on his finger! Let us have a party! My son was lost, and now he is found!

God is like that father. He loves to welcome us home.

Big Truth God loves to forgive me and welcome me back when I turn to Him.

MEMORY VERSE

As the east is far from the west, He has removed our transgressions far from us.

Psalm 103:12

Talk About It

1. What did the son do wrong?
2. What did the father do when he saw his son coming home?
3. How is God like that father?

Family Activity

Have a small welcome-home celebration at dinner, and talk about how God celebrates when we come back to Him.

Pray Together

Thank You, God, that You forgive my sins and take them far away. In Jesus' name, amen.

Lesson 42: Jesus Loves the Children

Read it in your Bible: Mark 10:13-16

Story Time

People were bringing their little children to Jesus so He could touch them and bless them. But the disciples thought Jesus was too busy and too important for children. They told the parents to go away.

When Jesus saw what was happening, He was not happy with His disciples. He said, Let the little children come to Me! Do not stop them! The kingdom of God belongs to people like these. Then He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them.

Jesus is never too busy for children. You are never too young to come to Jesus. In fact, Jesus said that grown-ups need to trust Him the way children do.

Big Truth Jesus loves me, and I can come to Him anytime.

MEMORY VERSE

*But Jesus, having seen **it**, was indignant and said to them, "Permit the little children to come to Me, and do not hinder them; for of such is the kingdom of God."*

Mark 10:14

Talk About It

1. Why did the disciples try to send the children away?
2. What did Jesus do?
3. How does it feel to know Jesus wants you to come to Him?

Family Activity

Sing Jesus Loves Me together. Then let each child tell Jesus something in their own prayer.

Pray Together

Thank You, Jesus, that You love me and want me to come to You. Amen.

Lesson 43: Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree

Read it in your Bible: Luke 19:1-10

Story Time

Zacchaeus was a tax collector in the city of Jericho. He was very rich, because he cheated people and took more money than he should. Nobody liked him.

One day Jesus came through Jericho, and a big crowd gathered. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree.

When Jesus came to that spot, He looked up and said, Zacchaeus, come down quickly! I am going to stay at your house today. Zacchaeus hurried down, full of joy. The people grumbled, He is going to the house of a sinner!

But meeting Jesus changed Zacchaeus. He said, I will give half of what I have to the poor, and if I cheated anyone, I will pay them back four times as much! Jesus said, Today salvation has come to this house.

Big Truth Jesus can change anyone's heart, including mine.

MEMORY VERSE

*Therefore if anyone **is** in Christ, **he is** a new creation; the old things have passed away; look, all things have become new.*

2 Corinthians 5:17

Talk About It

1. Why did Zacchaeus climb the tree?
2. How did Zacchaeus change after meeting Jesus?
3. How has Jesus changed you?

Family Activity

If you have a tree nearby, look at it together. Talk about how Jesus noticed Zacchaeus and how He notices you.

Pray Together

Jesus, thank You for making me new. Change my heart to be more like You. Amen.

Lesson 44: Blind Bartimaeus Sees

Read it in your Bible: Mark 10:46-52

Story Time

A blind man named Bartimaeus sat by the road outside Jericho, begging. One day he heard that Jesus was passing by. Bartimaeus began to shout as loud as he could, Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!

People told him to be quiet. But he shouted even louder, Son of David, have mercy on me!

Jesus stopped and said, Call him. So they told Bartimaeus, Cheer up! He is calling you! Bartimaeus threw off his coat, jumped up and came to Jesus.

Jesus asked, What do you want Me to do for you? Bartimaeus said, Teacher, I want to see! Jesus said, Go, your faith has made you well. Right away, Bartimaeus could see! And he followed Jesus down the road.

Big Truth I can call out to Jesus, and He hears me.

MEMORY VERSE

And Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has saved you." And immediately he received sight and was following Jesus on the way.

Mark 10:52

Talk About It

1. What did Bartimaeus shout?
2. What did he do when people told him to be quiet?
3. What do you want to ask Jesus for?

Family Activity

Close your eyes and try to walk across a room with someone guiding you. Talk about how Bartimaeus trusted Jesus.

Pray Together

Jesus, have mercy on me. Thank You for hearing me when I call. Amen.

Lesson 45: Jesus Raises Lazarus

Read it in your Bible: John 11:1-44

Story Time

Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were good friends of Jesus. One day Lazarus got very sick. The sisters sent a message: Lord, the one You love is sick. But by the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had died and had been in the tomb for four days.

Martha ran to meet Jesus. Jesus told her, I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even though they die. Then Jesus saw Mary and their friends crying, and Jesus cried too.

Jesus went to the tomb and said, Take away the stone. Then He prayed and shouted, Lazarus, come out! And Lazarus walked out of the tomb, still wrapped in burial cloths! He was alive!

Jesus has power over death. Because of Him, people who trust Him will live forever.

Big Truth Jesus has power over death and gives eternal life.

MEMORY VERSE

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The **one** believing in Me, even if he dies, will live,"*

John 11:25

Talk About It

1. Why did Jesus cry?
2. What happened when Jesus called Lazarus?
3. What does Jesus promise to people who believe in Him?

Family Activity

Talk about someone your family loved who has died and is with Jesus. Thank God for His promise of eternal life.

Pray Together

Jesus, You are the resurrection and the life. Thank You for eternal life. Amen.

Lesson 46: Jesus Rides Into Jerusalem

Read it in your Bible: Matthew 21:1-11

Story Time

It was almost time for the Passover, and crowds were coming to Jerusalem. Jesus sent two disciples to find a donkey and its colt. They brought them to Jesus, put their coats on them, and Jesus rode into the city.

The crowds went wild! People spread their coats on the road. Others cut palm branches from the trees and waved them. They shouted, Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna means save us! The people knew Jesus was the King God had promised. Hundreds of years before, a prophet had said the King would come riding on a donkey, humble and gentle. And here He was.

Many people wanted Jesus to fight the Romans and be a king like other kings. But Jesus came to save people from something much worse: sin.

Big Truth Jesus is the King, and He came to save us.

MEMORY VERSE

*This **is** the day **which** the LORD has made; let us be glad, and let us rejoice in it.*

Psalm 118:24

Talk About It

1. How did the people welcome Jesus?
2. What does Hosanna mean?
3. How can you praise Jesus as your King?

Family Activity

Make palm branches from green paper. Wave them and shout Hosanna together.

Pray Together

Hosanna, Jesus! You are my King. I praise You today. Amen.

Lesson 47: The Last Supper

Read it in your Bible: John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:14-20

Story Time

On the night before He died, Jesus ate a special Passover meal with His disciples. Before the meal, Jesus did something surprising. He got up, took a towel and a bowl of water, and began washing His disciples' dirty feet. That was a servant's job!

Peter said, You will never wash my feet! But Jesus said, Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me. Then Jesus said, I am your Teacher and Lord, and I washed your feet. You should serve each other the same way.

During the meal, Jesus took bread, thanked God and broke it. He said, This is My body, given for you. Then He took the cup and said, This cup is the new covenant in My blood. He was telling them He was about to die for them.

Jesus also gave them a new command: Love one another, as I have loved you.

Big Truth Jesus served others and wants me to love and serve people too.

MEMORY VERSE

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 13:34

Talk About It

1. What surprising thing did Jesus do before the meal?
2. What new command did Jesus give?
3. How can you serve someone in your family this week?

Family Activity

Take turns washing each other's hands or feet in a bowl of warm water. Talk about how Jesus served His friends.

Pray Together

Jesus, You loved and served others. Help me love and serve the way You did. Amen.

Lesson 48: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Read it in your Bible: Luke 22:39-23:49

Story Time

After the meal, Jesus went to a garden to pray. Soldiers came and arrested Him. Even though Jesus had never done anything wrong, the leaders lied about Him, and the Roman governor ordered Him to be crucified.

The soldiers beat Jesus, put a crown of thorns on His head and made fun of Him. Then they nailed Him to a wooden cross between two criminals. Even on the cross, Jesus prayed, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.

At noon, the whole land went dark for three hours. Then Jesus cried out and died. His friends took His body and laid it in a tomb, and a big stone was rolled in front.

Why did Jesus die? Not because He did anything wrong, but because we did. Jesus took the punishment for our sin, so we could be forgiven. That is how much God loves us.

Big Truth Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for my sin.

MEMORY VERSE

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

Talk About It

1. Did Jesus do anything wrong?
2. Why did Jesus die?
3. How does it make you feel to know Jesus died for you?

Family Activity

Make a simple cross from two sticks or craft sticks. Put it where you will see it and remember how much Jesus loves you.

Pray Together

Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross for my sins. I love You. Amen.

Lesson 49: Jesus Is Alive!

Read it in your Bible: Matthew 28:1-10; Luke 24:1-12

Story Time

Early on Sunday morning, the third day after Jesus died, some women went to the tomb. They were sad. They wanted to put spices on Jesus' body.

But when they got there, there was an earthquake! An angel had rolled the stone away and was sitting on it. His clothes were white as snow. The guards were so scared they shook and fainted.

The angel said to the women, Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen, just as He said! Come and see where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples.

The women ran with fear and great joy. And on the way, Jesus Himself met them! They fell at His feet and worshiped Him.

Jesus is alive! He beat sin and death, and He is alive today.

Big Truth Jesus rose from the dead, and He is alive today.

MEMORY VERSE

He is not here; for He has been raised, just as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord was lying.

Matthew 28:6

Talk About It

1. What did the women find at the tomb?
2. What did the angel say?
3. Why is it such good news that Jesus is alive?

Family Activity

Hide plastic eggs, with one left empty. When the empty one is found, talk about the empty tomb.

Pray Together

Jesus, You are alive! Thank You for beating sin and death for me. Amen.

Lesson 50: Jesus Goes Back to Heaven

Read it in your Bible: Acts 1:1-11

Story Time

After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to His friends many times over forty days. He ate with them, taught them and showed them He was really alive.

Then one day, Jesus led them to a hill near Jerusalem. He told them, Wait here for the Holy Spirit. When He comes, you will receive power, and you will tell people about Me, here and all over the world.

While they were watching, Jesus was lifted up into the sky, and a cloud hid Him from their sight. The disciples kept staring into the sky. Suddenly two men in white stood beside them and said, Why are you standing here looking at the sky? This same Jesus who went up into heaven will come back the same way you saw Him go.

Jesus went back to heaven, but He promised to come again. And He will!

Big Truth Jesus is in heaven now, and He is coming back.

MEMORY VERSE

*Jesus Christ **is** the same yesterday and today and forever.*

Hebrews 13:8

Talk About It

1. What did Jesus tell His friends before He went to heaven?
2. What did the two men in white say?
3. How does it feel to know Jesus is coming back?

Family Activity

Look up at the clouds together. Talk about the day Jesus will come back and what it will be like.

Pray Together

Jesus, You are the same yesterday, today and forever. I am waiting for You to come back. Amen.

Lesson 51: The Holy Spirit Comes

Read it in your Bible: Acts 2:1-41

Story Time

Ten days after Jesus went back to heaven, His followers were all together in one room. Suddenly there was a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the whole house. Something that looked like flames of fire rested on each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit!

They began to speak in other languages. People from many countries were visiting Jerusalem, and each one heard them speaking in their own language about the wonderful things God had done.

Then Peter stood up and preached about Jesus. He told the crowd that Jesus had died and risen again, and that they needed to turn from their sins and trust Him. About three thousand people believed and were baptized that day! The church was born.

The same Holy Spirit lives in everyone who trusts Jesus. He helps us live for God.

Big Truth The Holy Spirit lives in everyone who trusts Jesus and helps us live for God.

MEMORY VERSE

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such ***things*** *there is no law.*

Galatians 5:22-23

Talk About It

1. What happened when the Holy Spirit came?
2. How many people believed that day?
3. How does the Holy Spirit help us?

Family Activity

Read Galatians 5:22-23 and make a fruit basket picture, writing one fruit of the Spirit on each fruit.

Pray Together

Holy Spirit, fill me and help me grow love, joy, peace and kindness in my life. Amen.

Lesson 52: Paul Tells Everyone About Jesus

Read it in your Bible: Acts 9:1-20; 16:25-34

Story Time

Saul hated Christians. He went from house to house, dragging believers off to prison. One day, while Saul was on the road to the city of Damascus, a bright light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice: Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It was Jesus!

Saul was blind for three days. Then God sent a believer named Ananias to pray for him, and Saul could see again. Saul became a follower of Jesus! Later he was called Paul.

Paul spent the rest of his life traveling to many countries, telling everyone about Jesus. He was beaten, put in prison and shipwrecked. Once, in prison, he and his friend Silas sang songs to God at midnight, and God sent an earthquake that opened the doors! The jailer and his whole family believed in Jesus that night.

Big Truth Jesus can change anyone, and I can tell others about Him.

MEMORY VERSE

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is **the** power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, both to **the** Jew first and to **the** Greek.*

Romans 1:16

Talk About It

1. How did Saul change after he met Jesus?
2. What did Paul do for the rest of his life?
3. Who can you tell about Jesus this week?

Family Activity

Find a map and point to places Paul traveled. Then pray for someone you know who needs to hear about Jesus.

Pray Together

Jesus, I am not ashamed of You. Help me tell others the good news. Amen.

How to Become a Child of God

Read this page with a grown-up.

1. God loves you. God made you, and He loves you more than anyone ever could.

2. Everyone has sinned. Sin is when we do, say or think things that disobey God. Everyone has sinned, and sin separates us from God.

3. Jesus died for your sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sin. Jesus died on the cross, and three days later He rose again. He is alive!

4. You can trust Jesus. When you tell God you are sorry for your sin, and you trust Jesus to forgive you and be your Savior and Lord, God forgives you and makes you His child forever.

If you want to trust Jesus, you can pray something like this:

> *Dear God, I know I have sinned. I am sorry. I believe Jesus died on the cross for my sin and rose again. Please forgive me. I trust Jesus to be my Savior and my Lord. Thank You for making me Your child. In Jesus' name, amen.*

If you prayed that prayer and meant it, tell your parents, your pastor or your teacher. Write the date here:

I trusted Jesus on: _____

My Memory Verse Chart

Check off each verse when you can say it by heart.

Lesson	Verse	I know it!
1	Genesis 1:1	[ ]
2	Genesis 1:27	[ ]
3	Romans 3:23	[ ]
4	Genesis 9:13	[ ]
5	Proverbs 3:5	[ ]
6	Ephesians 4:32	[ ]
7	1 Peter 5:7	[ ]
8	Exodus 14:14	[ ]
9	John 14:15	[ ]
10	Matthew 6:11	[ ]
11	James 1:22	[ ]
12	Philippians 4:13	[ ]
13	Psalm 136:1	[ ]
14	1 Samuel 3:10	[ ]
15	Psalm 56:3	[ ]
16	Proverbs 17:17	[ ]
17	Psalm 23:1	[ ]
18	James 1:5	[ ]
19	Psalm 86:10	[ ]
20	Philippians 4:19	[ ]
21	Psalm 103:2	[ ]
22	Psalm 119:105	[ ]
23	Psalm 34:4	[ ]
24	1 Thessalonians 5:17	[ ]
25	Psalm 46:1	[ ]
26	1 John 1:9	[ ]
27	Luke 1:37	[ ]
28	Luke 2:11	[ ]
29	Luke 2:10	[ ]
30	Psalm 95:6	[ ]
31	Luke 2:52	[ ]
32	Matthew 3:17	[ ]
33	Psalm 119:11	[ ]
34	Matthew 4:19	[ ]

Lesson	Verse	I know it!
35	John 2:5	[ ]
36	Mark 4:41	[ ]
37	Psalm 136:1	[ ]
38	Matthew 14:27	[ ]
39	Luke 6:31	[ ]
40	Luke 19:10	[ ]
41	Psalm 103:12	[ ]
42	Mark 10:14	[ ]
43	2 Corinthians 5:17	[ ]
44	Mark 10:52	[ ]
45	John 11:25	[ ]
46	Psalm 118:24	[ ]
47	John 13:34	[ ]
48	Romans 5:8	[ ]
49	Matthew 28:6	[ ]
50	Hebrews 13:8	[ ]
51	Galatians 5:22-23	[ ]
52	Romans 1:16	[ ]

Notes for Teachers

A Simple Class Plan (about 45 minutes)

Time	What to do
5 minutes	Welcome and an opening prayer.
5 minutes	Review last week's memory verse.
10 minutes	Tell the story. Use pictures, props or let children act it out.
5 minutes	Say the Big Truth together, three times.
10 minutes	Talk About It questions and the activity.
5 minutes	Practice the new memory verse.
5 minutes	Pray Together and send the lesson home.

Tips

- Learn the story well enough to tell it, not just read it. Look the children in the eye.
- Ask questions and wait for answers. Children often say surprising and wonderful things.
- Keep the gospel clear. Many lessons point to Jesus. Say so.
- Send a note home each week with the Big Truth and memory verse, so families can keep talking.
- Watch for children who want to talk about trusting Jesus. Make time to talk with them and their parents.

About This Book

Kids in the Word is one of a set of free Christian books from Trinfinity Enterprises. Memory verses come from the Steadfast Literal Bible. Bible stories are retold in simple words for children. Questions or corrections are welcome at andrew@trinfinityenterprises.com.