



# GOOD NEWS

KIDS LEADER GUIDE

SESSIONS 1–18  
+ 2 BONUS SESSIONS









# GOOD NEWS

## KIDS LEADER GUIDE BOOK 1

SESSIONS 1–18  
+ 2 BONUS SESSIONS

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Use additional  
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the semester.

# TEAMKID PRINTABLE ITEMS

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## GENERAL HELPS

Clip Art

1. Administrative Guide
2. Volunteer Application Form
3. TeamKID Registration Card
4. Allergy Alert
5. Parent Letter
6. 15 Easy Steps for Promotion
7. Leading a TeamKID Session
8. World Map
9. Books of the Bible Poster
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Bibles and Coffee  
Intro to Amy Carmichael  
Medical Missions Starts Churches  
Gifts of Hope  
How to Send Relief

Bonus Video:  
Use Your One Life



# WHAT DOES A TEAMKID SESSION LOOK LIKE?

## **LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES, + 10 MINUTES FOR EXPANDED)**

Led by the main leader, large group uses fun, innovative methods to make the learning different from other times of learning. The beginning of large group encourages kids to work together by participating in a group activity or game. The leader introduces TeamKIDs to the session content, followed by an interactive Bible study. Kids activate various learning styles and engage in critical thinking skills of key Bible concepts through active learning activities provided in the TeamKID activity book. The group then has the option to separate into age-appropriate groups for deeper discussion and prayer.

## **ROTATION OPTIONS**

### **BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES, + 5 MINUTES FOR EXPANDED)**

This rotation of a TeamKID session presents fun, hands-on activities to help kids learn key Bible concepts, study their Bibles deeper, and work on Scripture memorization, Bible skills, and deeper understanding. There are two options available for leaders to customize to maximize the group's schedule.

### **MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES, + 5 MINUTES FOR EXPANDED)**

The missions rotation invites kids to experience a missionary and/or missionary family through a missions video or activity. It encourages kids in finding ways they can live “on mission” in their homes and community.

The missions videos can be found in the Leader Kit (DVD-ROM or digital downloads). A separate missions DVD with video content only is sold at [lifeway.com/teamkid](http://lifeway.com/teamkid). Leaders can utilize this DVD for teams of two or more teams with revolving rotation schedules.

TeamKID: Good News Missions DVD (9781087766836)

### **GAMES (15–20 MINUTES, + 5 MINUTES FOR EXPANDED)**

The games rotation reinforces the truths from the session through high energy games and activities. The recreation leader chooses from up to three TeamKID games, including a unit bonus game to customize the exciting experience for kids. Provide the recreation leader with the *TeamKID: Good News Playbook* (provided in the Good News Leader Kit) to lead this time. Game explanations, supplies, and debriefing can also be found in the leader guide.

### **CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES, + 5 MINUTES FOR EXPANDED)**

This final rotation brings all TeamKIDs back together to refocus and recap what was presented in the session. TeamKIDs recall the key points, Key Verse, and action steps of their time together. They also play a fun game that reinforces key truths as adults arrive to pick up their children for dismissal.

\*See next page for sample schedules.



## TEAMKID SCHEDULES

### RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE: 1 HOUR AND 30 MINUTES

LARGE GROUP	30 MIN
BIBLE ACTIVITIES	15 MIN
MISSIONS	15 MIN
GAMES	20 MIN
CLOSING	10 MIN

### EXPANDED SCHEDULE: 2 HOURS

LARGE GROUP	40 MIN
BIBLE ACTIVITIES	20 MIN
MISSIONS	20 MIN
GAMES	25 MIN
CLOSING	15 MIN

### CONDENSED SCHEDULE: 1 HOUR

LARGE GROUP	20 MIN
BIBLE ACTIVITIES	10 MIN
MISSIONS	10 MIN
GAMES	15 MIN
CLOSING	5 MIN

### CREATE YOUR SCHEDULE: TIME GOAL: \_\_\_\_\_


### BONUS SESSIONS

New bonus sessions are included in each leader guide. Two sessions are created for the first semester and two sessions for the second semester. Utilize these sessions around the Christmas and Easter holidays, school breaks, weekend retreats, church conferences, and more!

# TEAMKID RESOURCES

The following resources can make running TeamKID: Good News easier for you and more fun for kids.

## TEAMKID: GOOD NEWS LEADER KIT

(9781087766782)

TeamKID: Good News Digital Leader Kit (9781087778129)

The Leader Kit provides a leader guide, printable downloads, missions videos, and general instructions on setting up and administering TeamKID. The printable downloads contain reproducible items for assisting in teaching each session, and at-home parent connections. This resource can be a one-time purchase per church.



## TEAMKID: GOOD NEWS ACTIVITY BOOKS

TeamKID: Good News Older Kids Activity Book (9781087766829)

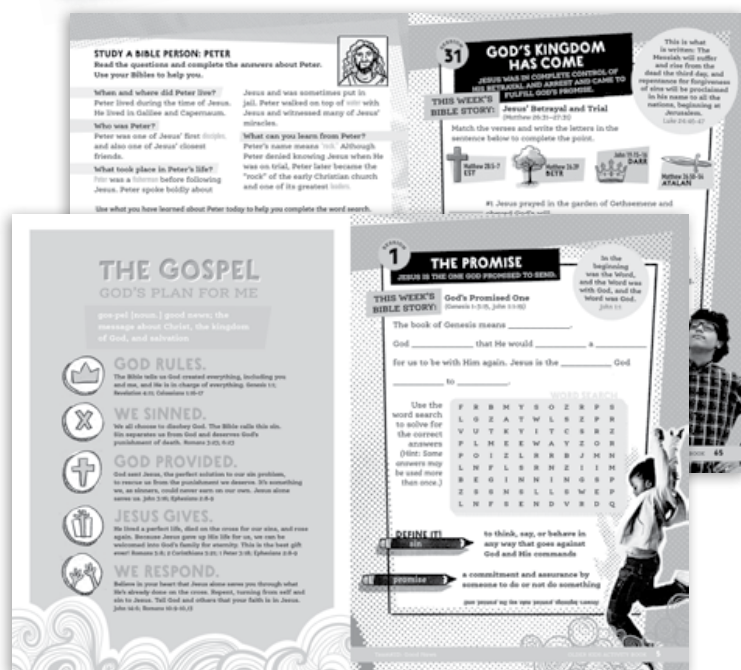
TeamKID: Good News Younger Kids Activity Book (9781087766829)

The Good News activity books contain materials for 36 sessions of TeamKID + 4 bonus sessions. Use one perforated activity page for each child. Each activity page contains fun activities to help children understand and apply the teaching concept of the session.



## TEAMKID: GOOD NEWS MISSIONS DVD (9781087766836)

Includes all the missions videos for churches who want to purchase a DVD per missions rotation.



## PROMOTING TEAMKID

Getting children to participate in TeamKID should be your first goal. But how can you attract children and parents who have busy schedules? Good, effective promotion is the key.

Your publicity may include phone calls, personal visits, mail-outs, displays, bulletin boards, posters, handouts, announcements, newsletters or newspaper articles, and a host of other approaches. See the clip art and promotion ideas included in the Printables for more ways to promote TeamKID.

### TEAMKID BANNER

(9781415822265)

Use the TeamKID Banner to tell the community that TeamKID meets at your church.



### TEAMKID MOTTO BANNER

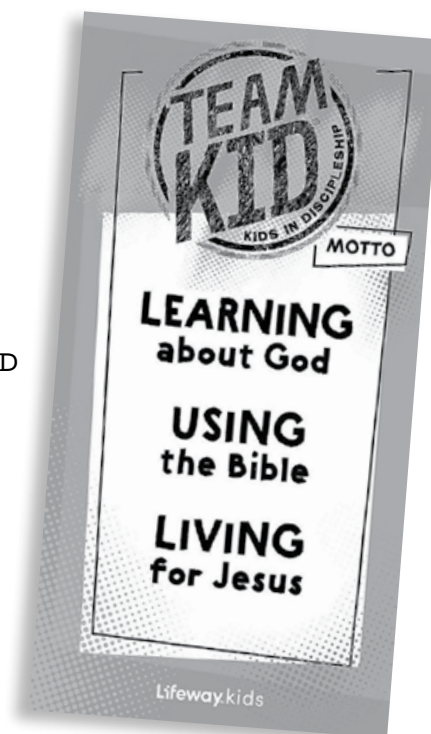
(9781415835333)

Use the TeamKID Banner to tell the community that TeamKID meets at your church.

### TEAMKID PENCILS (9780767327954)

#### TEAMKID T-SHIRTS

Includes all the missions videos for churches who want to purchase a DVD per missions rotation.



**YOUTH SMALL** (9781087766836)

**YOUTH MEDIUM** (9781087766836)

**YOUTH LARGE** (9781087766836)

**ADULT SMALL** (9781087766836)

**ADULT MEDIUM** (9781087766836)

**ADULT LARGE** (9781087766836)

**ADULT X-LARGE** (9781087766836)

**ADULT 2X-LARGE** (9781087766836)



## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR TEAMKIDS

TeamKID is designed for kids in grades 1–6. This multi-age resource engages kids in various stages of childhood as they grow deeper in faith through discipleship.

During TeamKID, kids have the opportunity to see how a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is crucial. They can learn that they can trust Jesus every step of the way. To help you lead kids of this age to begin and grow their relationships with Jesus, here are a few things to keep in mind.

### YOUNGER KIDS (GRADES 1–2)

- 1st and 2nd graders shift quickly from one activity to the next and are extremely active. They benefit from a variety of high, moderate, and low energy activities. They use their entire bodies to learn. They benefit from learning experiences that incorporate all senses.
- 1st and 2nd graders love discovering things and having opportunities to be creative. They benefit from activities like solving simple codes, playing games, or retelling the Bible story through drama.
- 1st and 2nd graders are learning to view Jesus as a friend and are beginning to feel the need to trust Jesus as Savior. They benefit from teachers who lovingly share information about what becoming a Christian means without putting pressure on them to make an immediate decision. Children should be reassured that it's OK if they don't feel God's Holy Spirit leading them to trust Jesus right now.
- 1st and 2nd graders are limited in their ability to think abstractly. They benefit from teachers who explain things clearly in simple terms without the use of abstract object lessons or analogies. They understand better when directions are short and simple.
- 1st and 2nd graders are focused on their own needs and moving toward independence. They benefit from simple rules and routines that are consistent. However, they like opportunities to make simple choices.
- 1st and 2nd graders are sensitive and desire approval. They can experience sudden mood swings. They benefit from positive words and encouraging facial expressions. They respond to teachers who listen to them and are patient with them during trying times.

**Leader Tip:** to become more familiar with first and second graders, consider watching television programming aimed at this age group, visiting the children's section of a bookstore, and walking down the toy aisles of a local department store.

### OLDER KIDS (GRADES 3–4)

#### PHYSICALLY AND SOCIALLY

- Are active, energetic, and enthusiastic by nature and need an outlet for those physical characteristics with active learning experiences.
- Are in the process of building relationships, usually loyal to their friends (generally of the same gender), and want to be helpful to the group or team.
- Like to work in groups and focus on fairness.
- Do not want to call attention to themselves or be compared to others. They are more comfortable playing a game or answering questions as part of a group.
- Are beginning to take more responsibility for their actions.

### **SPIRITUALLY**

- Are developing values and thinking in terms of right or wrong instead of good and bad.
- Are learning that the Bible tells of God's plan of salvation.
- Can memorize short Bible passages and learn and apply Bible truths about salvation.
- Can ask serious questions about religion.
- Can follow the examples, teachings, and commandments of Jesus.
- Are aware that God loves and values all people.

### **EMOTIONALLY**

- Are increasing in their self concept. Can be strong-willed at times as they seek ways to show independence.
- Can be anxious, withdrawn, tend to complain, and are often hesitant to try new activities. Are generally sensitive, their feelings are hurt easily, and they cry easily.

### **BIBLE SKILLS**

- Are able to locate some books in the Bible.
- Can locate books of the Bible by using the contents page or with a teacher's assistance.
- Can find information asked for by reading a verse or passage.
- Can pronounce some of the names of Bible people, places, and things.
- Can discover and apply truths in a Bible passage.
- Learn Bible truths never change.
- Begin to use the Bible for daily Bible reading.
- Know the Bible teaches people how God wants them to live.

## **PRETEENS (GRADES 5–6)**

### **UNDERSTAND HOW PRETEENS DEVELOP**

Preteens can appear to be constantly on the go and are experiencing growth spurts. They can memorize easily, think quickly, and solve problems for themselves. Many preteens enjoy sports, competition, and active games, yet they are worried about fitting in and rejection. Preteens need you to remember that they develop at different rates. They do not all have the same skills and abilities. Plan activities that use gross motor skills (such as games) and fine motor skills (such as crafts). Give preteens choices whenever possible.

### **UNDERSTAND HOW PRETEENS THINK**

Preteens seem slow to respond but are creative, imaginative, and curious. They are critical of themselves and others. They are beginning to question authority and expect perfection. Preteens experience emotional highs and lows and may exhibit oppositional behaviors at times. Preteens need you to listen to and respect their ideas. They want to feel needed, accepted, and loved at church. Try to capitalize on the fact that preteens have a good sense of humor to de-escalate any conflicts that may arise.

Leader Tip: to become more familiar with 3rd and 4th graders, consider watching television programming aimed at this age group, visiting the children's section of a bookstore, and walking down the toy aisles of a local department store. Ask kids you know what social media influencers they are following and what video games they are playing, as well.

## UNDERSTAND PRETEENS' SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Preteens can be sensitive to conviction from the Holy Spirit and are developing a value system based on their own understanding of biblical principles. They are beginning to apply the biblical truths they are learning in Bible study to their lives. Preteens need you to openly answer spiritual questions using the Bible as your guide. They need you to model Christian attitudes and actions and be a Christian mentor.

## KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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Kids with special needs may struggle with one or more of the following disabilities: physical, developmental/learning, behavioral/emotional, or sensory impairment. Physical disabilities affect a preteen's movement and motion. Learning disabilities impact the way preteens process and understand information. Behavioral and emotional disabilities are characterized by difficulties paying attention and building and maintaining relationships with peers and teachers. Sensory impairments include vision or hearing loss or impairments, feeding issues, tactile (touch) sensitivity, and spatial awareness difficulties.

Use the following modifications to help kids or preteens with special needs in your classroom:

- Make sure rooms are uncluttered and organized. Too many decorations in one area can distract preteens and cause anxiety, especially among those with attention related disabilities and sensory impairments. Ensure there are free and clear areas so those with mobility issues can easily walk or move through in a wheelchair.
- Provide oral instructions and repeat instructions as needed. Break down instructions for crafts, games, and other learning activities into smaller, manageable tasks. Kids with learning and/or behavioral/emotional disabilities struggle when hearing several instructions at once. If possible, demonstrate how to complete tasks.
- When needed, find a buddy to work alongside the preteen. This will help establish relationships, trust, and consistency. A buddy could be an extra adult helper or student helper.
- Use a positive approach to feedback. It may be easy to feel impatient when dealing with kids and preteens with behavioral or emotional disorders. Try to maintain a calm response despite any disruptive behaviors. Redirect the child's attention when needed.
- Allow movement breaks as needed. Kids with autism and other developmental disabilities may need movement breaks.

## SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH KIDS

TeamKID is a great time to share the gospel message with kids. Every TeamKID Kit provides a gospel presentation video for kids that you can use anytime you want to share the message of the gospel. Print and share “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” poster (item 10) and utilize “The Gospel: God’s Plan” slide during large group and closing. Consider these thoughts as you get ready to share.

- The ultimate goal of teaching the Bible is for a person to trust Jesus as his Savior when the Holy Spirit leads him to realize that he has sinned against God and is spiritually lost. The Holy Spirit is the leader in the experience, but believers have the responsibility of following the Spirit’s leading.
- Some kids have already become Christians. Others will come to that decision at different times. You will lay the foundation for making that decision while at the same time not rushing a child into a decision she is not ready to make.
- Becoming a Christian is an individual matter and discussions about conversion are more effective when conducted individually. TeamKIDs will feel freer to share true thoughts and feelings. Follow safety protocols and make sure an adult is never alone with a child.
- Remember that each person comes to this decision as the Holy Spirit leads. Kids respond at different ages.
- The questions a child asks can signal a leader that the child is considering the decision to trust in Jesus. When she asks her questions, answer simply and without pushing the child to do more than she is ready to do. More than anything, these questions indicate the child’s awareness of her need for God.
- If a child indicates a desire to become a Christian, ask her to tell you what she is thinking and feeling. Use questions that require thoughtful answers rather than just yes or no. Use language the child understands.
- You might want to use these questions: Why do you want to become a Christian? What do you think it means to be a Christian?
- Use your Bible as you share the gospel. After reading a Bible verse, be ready to explain the verse in your own words. Help the child understand unfamiliar terms such as repent. Refer to *The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me* booklet for Bible verses to share and kid-friendly ways to explain how to become a Christian.
- Help a child know how he can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He’s already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. Refer to *The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me* booklet for ways to help kids know what they can do.
- One common misconception for kids is that being baptized makes them a Christian. Be sure they know the difference between becoming a Christian, being baptized, and joining the church.
- Help TeamKIDs to understand that the gospel changes and transforms hearts.
- Focusing on external behavior misses the heart. The gospel is about heart transformation.
- Remember that the gospel does not just save someone from sin, it also saves that person to live for God. Jesus calls His disciples to live on mission for His glory.
- Don’t forget that children are very literal. Explain any symbolism that a child might find unclear.
- Prepare yourself ahead of time so you are ready to answer kids’ questions as they arise. Be ready with Bible verses ready to use. Pray. Ask God’s leadership as you help kids grow in their understanding of salvation.

**THE GOSPEL: GOD’S PLAN FOR ME** booklet (CSB: 9781430066965) is sold in packs of 10 and provides a witnessing tool that emphasizes God’s plan of salvation from creation to Jesus and how we respond to the good news. Also available in ESV (9781430066958).



# THE GOSPEL

## GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

gos·pel [noun.] good news; the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation



### GOD RULES.

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16-17



### WE SINNED.

We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. Romans 3:23; 6:23



### GOD PROVIDED.

God sent Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9



### JESUS GIVES.

He lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9



### WE RESPOND.

Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus. John 14:6; Romans 10:9-10,13

# THE PROMISE

TODAY'S POINT: JESUS IS THE ONE GOD PROMISED TO SEND.

## BIBLE STORY

God's Promised One (Genesis 1–3:15;  
John 1:1–19)

## PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 11).

## KEY VERSE

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 1 slide
- ☐ Session 1 slide
- ☐ Unit 1 Countdown Video

- ☐ "Road Signs" (item 12)
- ☐ Tape (tape signs around the room)
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### MAKE A TENT

- ☐ Various supplies to make a tent (blankets, chairs, pillows, sheets, and so forth).

#### VERSE CHALLENGE

- ☐ Dry erase board
- ☐ Dry erase marker

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Missionary Explorer, David Livingstone" missions video
- ☐ "World Map" (item 8)
- ☐ "Exploration Cards" (item 13)

### GAMES

#### CATERPILLAR CRAWL (PLAYBOOK, P 7)

- ☐ Index cards—write one word of the Key Verse on each card, one set of cards per team

#### TAIL TAG (PLAYBOOK, P 10)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

#### STICKY NOTE RACE (PLAYBOOK, P 11)

- ☐ Sticky notes (2 sets, numbered 1–9)
- ☐ Stickers

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 1 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ "The Gospel: God's Plan for Me" poster (item 10) or slide
- ☐ "Unit 1 Parent Connections" (item 11)

## LEADER DEVOTION

### OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Genesis 3:15 and John 1:1-5 from your Bible or Bible app.

### STUDY

“...and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning” (John 1:1b-2)

The Word John describes, the One who was with God and was God, the One who came to save humanity, was also at the beginning of time creating the world by the power of His Word. He spoke and there was light, life, and every good thing. And even though the Son knew His creation would reject Him and sin would enter the world through man’s disobedience, God the Father promised that this Word would become flesh. The offspring of the woman who ate the fruit would one day dwell again with His creation. He was promised in Genesis 3:15, and all throughout the Old Testament we see glimpses of hope of God fulfilling His promise through Jesus the Son.

This first unit of TeamKID focuses on teaching kids about the fulfillment of God’s promise to send Jesus. In this session, guide kids to notice the original promise God made at the beginning of creation. The story God began writing in the Old Testament points to the promised One who would come to restore what was broken by sin. Help kids see that the Bible is all about God’s plan to save people through Jesus.

### CONSIDER

- Why is it important that the Bible tells one seamless story of God’s plan and promise to rescue His people?
- How does John’s account of the Word becoming flesh bring encouragement to you and help you trust in God’s faithfulness?

## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: SEEK THE SIGN (5–10 MINUTES)

*Provide: “Road Signs” (item 12), tape (secure signs around the room)*

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video to get started.

- **Say:** There are many signs we see on a daily basis. These signs often help us to notice something we need to be aware of or prepare us for what is coming. For example, an exit sign lets us know where we can leave the building. This is especially helpful in case of an emergency.

- **Ask:** Can you think of other signs you have seen? (Allow time for kids to answer. Some examples they think of might include: railroad crossings, stop signs, yield signs, under construction, danger, caution, wet floor, and so forth)

Explain that God has provided many signs about Jesus in the Bible, particularly in the Old Testament—the first part of our Bibles. Describe how these signs help us to see Jesus all throughout the Bible, not just the New Testament parts where we find most of the stories of Jesus’ life and ministry.

Direct kids to look for signs that you have placed around the room. Discuss how each sign in the Old Testament is a way God is pointing us to Jesus.

### BIBLE STUDY: GOD’S PROMISED ONE (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per kid)*

Invite kids to turn to page 5 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

Leader  
Tip: Consider marking Bible passages for kids to read during Bible study. Utilize slides as needed.

- **Say:** The Bible is about God’s plan to save people through Jesus. Both the Old Testament (the first part of the Bible) and the New Testament (the second part of the Bible) teach us about God, His plan, and how we can be part of it. Today we are going to look at a few different passages in the Old Testament that tell us more about Jesus.

- Let’s start at the beginning, in the book of Genesis. (Lead kids to open their Bibles to Genesis 1. Encourage TeamKID leaders to assist kids as needed.) *Genesis* means beginning. In this book we learn about the beginning of the universe and the beginning of people. We also learn about the beginning of sin and the beginning of God’s grace to us through a very important promise. Let’s start at the beginning!

**DEFINE IT: SIN**—to think, say, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.

**DEFINE IT: PROMISE**—a commitment and assurance by someone to do or not do something



## GOD'S PROMISED ONE BASED ON GENESIS 1–3:15; JOHN 1:1-19

Read Genesis 1:1, or ask a TeamKID to read this verse aloud.

Before anything else ever existed there was God. God is eternal. He always has been and always will be. God is the only One who never had a beginning. This is important because God is our Creator. He created the world and everything in it, including people. The first people were named Adam and Eve, and they were created to reflect (or show) God to the world through their words, their actions, and how they lived their lives. God loved the people He made, and He dwelt (lived) with them. He made all people to have a relationship with Him and to enjoy being with Him.

**Ask:** Why do you think it is important that God dwelt (or lived) with His creation? What does this teach us about God? (Answers may include: God is not far or distant from us. He created us, loves us, and wants to be with us.)

One day, Adam and Eve were tempted to disobey God. A deceitful (lying) snake twisted God's truthful word and led Eve to doubt that God's ways were best. God told Adam that he was free to eat from any tree in the garden except for the tree of knowledge of good and evil. But, Adam and Eve listened to the words of the snake and chose to eat from this tree. They chose to enjoy something God created more than God, and they disobeyed God's command. Through their disobedience, sin came into the world, and sin separates us from God. Adam and Eve could no longer live in the garden or enjoy the presence of God. Even though sin brought terrible consequences like death and separation, God still loved His people and wanted to be with them. So, God made a promise to be with His people again.

Read Genesis 3:14-15.

**Ask:** What is Eve's offspring (future family member) going to do to this deceiver? (strike his head/crush his head)

Through one of Eve's future family members, God promised that He would make a way for us to be with Him again, and this Promised One would defeat sin forever. Even though it would take many, many years for this Savior to arrive, God had a perfect plan. God's people waited, hoped, and looked for the day when the Promised One would arrive. God continued to speak to His people, reminding them of this promise. He said that He would send special signs (Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:2-7) to help the people see and believe in His promise.

Read John 1:1-5,14.

Jesus is the One God promised to send. And you know what? Jesus came from God because He is God the Son! From the beginning of creation, God was making a way to be with His people forever. God gave a promise in Genesis 3:15 to send the Savior and that promise came true through Jesus. God's Word helps us to understand, know, and believe that all of His promises are true. God's faithful love to His people is fully shown in God sending His Son Jesus to fulfill His plan.

## GOING DEEPER

- **Say:** Our perfect, holy, and good Creator made us to be with Him. Even though Adam and Eve sinned, God made a promise to make a way to be with His special creation again. Jesus is the One God promised to send. All throughout the Old Testament there is evidence that helps us see how God was making a way for this promise to come true through Jesus.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- Who created the world and everything in it? (God/Jesus/The Word; John 1:1)
- What separated people (Adam and Eve) from God? (sin/disobedience; Genesis 2:16-17)
- Why is the promise God made in Genesis 3:15 good news? (It is good news because it is where God promises to send One who will defeat the serpent.)

### Older Kids

- How does knowing the Old Testament is about God fulfilling His promise help you to trust in God? (answers may include: helps me to know He is true; helps me to believe that His timing is perfect; helps me to know that God keeps His promises; helps me to remember that God is always working, and so forth)
- People make a lot of promises to us, but they do not always come true or they don't turn out how we expect. How could you help a friend to understand that God always keeps His promises? (Answers may vary but could include: Because Jesus did come to earth, we can trust that God's Word is always true.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Guide kids to turn their pages to side two to complete "Promise Match" and point out the different signs and promises that the Bible gives us that point us to Jesus as the Promised One.

Discuss how **Jesus is the One God promised to send**. Lead kids to consider how this promise gives us hope and confidence to trust in God and the Bible.

## PRAY

Lead the group in a prayer. Thank God for always keeping His promises and for sending Jesus to save us. Ask God to help kids trust in His Word and understand how much God loves them.

## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: MAKE A TENT

*Provide: Various supplies to make a tent (blankets, chairs, pillows, sheets, and so forth)*

- Read Exodus 25:8. Explain that God has always desired (and still does) to be with the people He created. Discuss how the tabernacle was a special tent established by God where He would come and dwell (live) with His people (Israel).
- Form groups of three or four kids. Supply each group with the necessary supplies, and allow time for each team to build a tent using only the supplies provided. Allow the class to vote on who they think built the best tent.
- Remind kids of the tabernacle God told Moses to build. Discuss how this tent was a means for God to be with His people. Explain how Jesus is God the Son who came to dwell with His people and fulfill God's promise.

### OPTION 2: VERSE CHALLENGE

*Provide: Dry erase board and marker. Write John 1:1 on the board.*

- Direct kids to the Bible verse written on the board. Read the verse aloud, reminding kids that this verse helps us learn more about God and Jesus. Explain the verse, and tell kids that they are going to work together as a team to memorize the verse over the next several sessions.
- Erase one word from the memory verse. You can have kids close their eyes, turn away, or allow them to see what word you erase. Form teams and allow them to discuss and decide what word is missing. Each team will provide the missing word for the leader to write. Continue erasing one word at a time (older kids can have two or three words erased at a time) until kids are able to recite the verse.

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: "World Map" (item 8), "Exploration Cards" (item 13)—hide around the room, "Missionary Explorer—David Livingstone" missions video*

- **Ask:** Where is somewhere you have gone exploring? Have you ever been exploring in a cave, or in a big house, or maybe the woods?
- **Say:** We're going to learn about a missionary explorer named David Livingstone, who lived many years ago. He explored places in Africa, but what he really wanted to do was find people who needed to hear about God's promised Son.

Show the "World Map" (item 8) and ask a volunteer to point to Africa, where David Livingstone explored. Point out that Botswana and Zimbabwe are two countries Livingstone explored. Then, play the missions video.

- **Say:** David Livingstone believed that Jesus is the Messiah promised in Scripture. He shared with people along his journeys about Jesus. That's why we call him a missionary explorer.

Invite kids to search the room for the four cards that will describe different parts of missionary David Livingstone's story. You may also choose to hide cards under chairs, or simply ask for volunteers to choose a card. Ask the volunteer who finds the card to read it aloud to the group.



## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: CATERPILLAR CRAWL (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 7)

*Provide: Index cards—write one word of the Key Verse on each card, one set of cards per team*

- Place index cards on one side of the playing area in verse order. Guide players to form two teams on the other side of the playing area. Players on each team lie side by side on their backs, and Player One from each team will roll forward until he is on his back again. Then, Player Two will do the same then, Player Three until each team rolls forward. Player One will collect an index card and move to the back of the line. Play continues with Player Two becoming the new leader. Once all index cards are collected, the team can work together to put the cards in verse order. The first team to do so correctly wins!
- Debrief: Remind kids that Jesus is not only our Creator, who was with God in the beginning, but He is also the One God promised to send. We can trust God's Word because God is always truthful.

### TAIL TAG (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 10)

*No supplies needed.*

- Players will clasp hands or wrists and form a long line. The player at the end of the line tries to tag the leader of the line. When the player at the end tags the leader, the player must shout out a truth from God's Word she learned in the Bible story. The player who was the tail then becomes the leader and the game continues.
- Debrief: Remind TeamKIDs that the Bible is God's way to communicate who He is, what He has done, and what He will do. Every part of His Word is centered around Jesus. When we seek to know His Word, we can grow in knowledge and love for Jesus.

### STICKY NOTE RACE (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 11)

*Provide: Sticky notes (2 sets numbered 1–9 with Bible passages written on them, see below), stickers*

- Players will form two teams for a relay race to a sticky note. Each numbered note corresponds to a Bible verse. Players will take turns spinning around three to four times before racing to a sticky note. Players will select a note and race back to the team. The team must find and read the selected Bible verse or verses, and then place a sticker on the note before the next player runs. The first team to find all of the Bible verses wins!
- Debrief: Choose kids or ask for volunteers to read their Bible passages and discuss how each verse from the Old Testament points to Jesus. Remind kids that **Jesus is the One God promised to send**. Throughout the Old Testament, God told His people of His promise to send the promised One, and He did!

Bible Passages: 1) Micah 5:2; 2) Zechariah 9:9; 3) Daniel 7:13; 4) Deuteronomy 18:18; 5) Isaiah 61:1-2; 6) Zechariah 11:12-13; 7) 2 Samuel 7:12-13; 8) Psalm 16:10; 9) Isaiah 9:2-7

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: “Questions with Kids” slide, “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” poster (item 10) or slide*

Display the “Questions with Kids” slide. Ask kids what good news they have learned about in today’s Bible study. Encourage kids to discuss key points from today’s study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today’s activity page.

- **Say:** Those are great thoughts! We have heard some great news from today’s Bible study about how God promised to send Someone to rescue people from sin. Did you know that every part of the Bible points us to Jesus? From the first book of the Bible—Genesis to the very last book of the Bible—Revelation, we see the promises of God fulfilled. We can trust the Bible because it is God’s Word, and we can hope in His promises.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, “Key Verse” slide*

Read the Key Verse together from a Bible or the “Key Verse” slide. Encourage TeamKIDs to share what this verse means and why it is important.

### PRAY

Lead a closing prayer, or ask for a volunteer to pray. Thank God for the promises in His Word and for sending Jesus.

### DISMISS

*Provide: “Unit 1 Parent Connections” (item 11)*

Play a quick game of “Stand Up, Sit Down”. Recite some Bible facts from the story today and some things that were not related to the story. If the fact relates to the Bible story, kids will stand up. If not, they will sit down. Use the following examples, or create your own.

- Genesis tells us that God is our Creator. *(Stand up)*
- Genesis tells us that giraffes have long necks. *(Sit down)*
- Moses is the One God promised to send. *(Sit down—Jesus)*
- God dwelt (lived) with His creation at the very beginning. *(Stand up)*
- Only some of God’s promises are true. *(Sit down—All of God’s promises are true)*
- The Old Testament points us to Jesus. *(Stand up)*

Remind kids that God desires to dwell with them forever and that through Jesus He has made a way for this to be possible. Review “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” (item 10) and explain how kids can have a relationship with Jesus. Make sure kids know you are always available to talk with them about what it means to follow Jesus and become a Christian.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child her personal belongings, activity page, and Parent Connection.

## SESSION 2

# THE FAMILY

TODAY'S POINT: GOD PLANNED FOR THE PEOPLE IN GOD'S FAMILY TO POINT TO JESUS AS THE TRUE KING.

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### BIBLE STORY

The Family of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-21;  
Luke 1:26-56; Luke 3:23-38)

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 11).

### KEY VERSE

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 1 slide
- ☐ Session 2 slide
- ☐ Unit 1 Countdown Video

- ☐ 2 buttons of different colors
- ☐ "Jesus' Genealogy" (item 14) or "Jesus' Genealogy" slide
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### ALL IN THE FAMILY

- ☐ "Jesus' Genealogy" (item 14)
- ☐ Construction paper
- ☐ Marker
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Music

#### PASS THE CROWN

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ 2 toy or paper crowns

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Missionary Explorer—David Livingstone" missions video
- ☐ "David Livingstone Photo" (item 15)
- ☐ "David Livingstone's Important Mission" (item 16)
- ☐ Tape (1 roll per group)
- ☐ Yarn (1 skein per group)

### GAMES

#### CATERPILLAR CRAWL (PLAYBOOK, P 7)

- ☐ Index cards (write one word of the Key Verse on each card, one set of cards per team)

#### GENEALOGY MATCH UP (PLAYBOOK, P 12)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

#### AMOEBAS TAG (PLAYBOOK, P 13)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 1 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ "Unit 1 Blank" slide with Bible names
- ☐ Paper (optional)
- ☐ "Unit 1 Parent Connections" (item 11)

## LEADER DEVOTION

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### OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Matthew 1, Luke 1:26-56, and Luke 3:23-38 from your Bible or Bible app.

### STUDY

It can be tempting to skip over the genealogies in the Bible. The long list of names, often with difficult pronunciations, can seem insignificant and a bit redundant. Yet, not only do we see God's great care in knowing every person He has made, but we also see the historical accuracy of the Scriptures and the Lord's faithfulness through the generations.

The genealogies remind us of God's promise to bless the nations (Genesis 12:3) as they trace the Messianic line from the nation of Israel all the way back to the first human, Adam. The Gospels of Matthew and Luke provide us with the genealogy of Jesus, showing how the Lord was fulfilling His promise to send the Messianic King. The baby announced by Gabriel and born to Mary is the Promised One who will sit on the throne of David forever.

### CONSIDER

- What stands out to you as you read the genealogies in Matthew 1 and Luke 3?
- Why is it important that, though the Son of God is eternal and one with the Father, there is a human lineage that can be traced for the incarnation of Jesus Christ?
- How does the faithfulness of God throughout the genealogies strengthen your own faith?



## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: A VERY GOOD IDEA (5–10 MINUTES)

*Provide: 2 different colored buttons for TeamKIDs to pass to one another*

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video to get started.

Encourage kids to join you in standing in a large circle. Hold up the first button and explain that this is going to be our very good idea generator. Explain that you will choose two TeamKIDs to start the game. One TeamKID will receive the very good idea generator. The other TeamKID will receive a different button, but TeamKIDs won’t know which person has the idea generator and which person has the fake.

TeamKIDs will pass the objects to their left without looking at what is in their hands. After a few moments, the leader will ask: “Who has a good idea?” The TeamKIDs holding the button will look to see which object they have. The one holding the very good idea generator will shout out a fun or silly idea. (examples: I think everyone should eat ice cream for dinner, I think we should always wear birthday party hats to church, and so forth.) Retrieve the buttons and pass them to different TeamKIDs. Continue playing as TeamKIDs arrive.

• **Say:** You all had some pretty fun ideas! Did you know that God has ideas, too? Think about it. God is the Creator, which means He is creative!

• **Ask:** What are some ideas you think God might have come up with? (Allow TeamKIDs to consider and respond. Answers may include: people, creation, animals, weather, time, and so forth.)

• **Say:** Those are great thoughts! Did you know that one of the ideas that God came up with is families? God made the very first family, Adam and Eve, and from that first family came many, many more families. In the Bible, we can read about how God was working through certain families to bring about the birth of His Son, Jesus. Before Jesus was born as a baby, He was in heaven with God the Father. At just the right time, God sent Jesus to be born, and when Jesus was born, He had family.

### BIBLE STUDY: THE FAMILY OF JESUS (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, “Jesus’ Genealogy” (item 14), Activity Books (1 per kid)*

Invite kids to turn to page 7 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

**DEFINE IT: GENEALOGY**—the study of families, family history, and descendants

• **Say:** The Bible is full of people and families. There are even special passages of the Bible that list generations and generations of families. We call these genealogies. (Encourage kids to say the word genealogies.) Even Jesus has a genealogy that we can trace back to the first family, Adam and Eve! In our Bible study, we are going to look at the family of Jesus and how **God planned for the people in God’s family to point to Jesus as the true King.** Let’s open up our Bibles and discover more!

Display up the “Jesus’ Genealogy” printable (item 14) as you lead the study.

Consider marking Bible passages for kids to read during Bible study. Utilize slides as needed.

## THE FAMILY OF JESUS

### BASED ON MATTHEW 1:1-21; LUKE 1:26-56; LUKE 3:23-38

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Read Matthew 1:1-17.

- In the Bible books of Matthew and Luke, we find the genealogies of Jesus. Matthew starts with Abraham and continues to the birth of Jesus. But Luke follows the family of Jesus all the way back to Adam, the first human! Both genealogies help us to understand that God was faithfully working since the garden of Eden to bring the One true King into the world. He planned for Jesus to come through the family line of these specific people. Let's read the genealogy of Jesus found in Luke.

Read Luke 3:23-38.

- **Ask:** What names in Jesus' family are familiar to you? (Mention names in the genealogy kids may be familiar with like David, Mary, and Adam.)
- Perhaps as we read this list of people you recognized names like Judah, Noah, Mary, David, Ruth, Abraham, and Adam. These people (and many others) are part of Jesus' family. God was working through this family line to one day bless all nations through the Messiah. God promised the Messiah in Genesis 3:15 and then He chose Abraham to become a great nation that would one day birth our King. God told Abraham, "And all the nations of the earth will be blessed by your offspring because you have obeyed my command" (Genesis 22:18). God was faithful to the promise He made to Abraham. Jesus, who is God eternal, left His throne in heaven to save us.

Read Matthew 1:21, or encourage a TeamKID to read this verse aloud.

- **Ask:** Why was this child to be named Jesus? (because He will save us from our sin)
- The angel Gabriel was sent by God to prepare Mary for the coming Messiah. She was chosen to be the mother of Jesus. As the angel brought Mary this good news, he brought the good news of salvation. Jesus, the baby soon to be born to Mary, was coming to save us from our sins. He was coming to make a way for us to be with God again. The angel also told Mary that Jesus would be given the throne of His father David.

Read Luke 1:28-33, or encourage a TeamKID to read these verses aloud.

- **Ask:** Why do you think David was called Jesus' father? (David wasn't the father of Jesus, but Jesus' human family can be traced to King David.)
- King David was an important person in the family of Jesus. David wasn't Jesus' actual father, but he was part of the human family of Jesus. The line of David was of royalty, and God promised that through this line would come the Messiah. David was an important king in the history of the Israelites, but Jesus is the true and perfect King who will reign forever.

## GOING DEEPER

- **Say:** God is a merciful and gracious God who keeps His promises. The family of Jesus is one way we can see how God was working to fulfill the promise of a Savior. It is Jesus who saves us from our sin. In the genealogy of Jesus, we saw that many people were in Jesus' family, even as far back as Adam. We read that David was a king many generations before Jesus, but that Jesus would one day be the One to sit on the throne forever. **God planned for the people in God's family to point to Jesus as the true King.**

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- What is a genealogy? Who were some people in the genealogy of Jesus? (the study of families, family history, and descendants; David, Joshua, Rahab, Abraham, Ruth, Adam)
- What good news did the angel Gabriel bring to Mary? (Mary would have a child who would be King forever.)
- Why was this good news? Read Matthew 1:21. (It was good news because this King would not only rule in perfect goodness, but He would save those who believe in Him from their sins. )

### Older Kids

- Jesus' family was made up of a lot of sinful people. No one was perfectly good. How does knowing God still worked through sinful people help you to trust in God? (Answers may include: God's plans are not dependent on us. He will always keep His promises. We can trust that however He uses people it is always for good, etc.)
- Think about your own family members or even a friend's family. Who might need to hear about Jesus? How can you share Jesus with them? (Answers will vary. Take the opportunity to lead kids through "The Gospel, God's Plan for Me," page 13. Encourage kids to share what they believe about Jesus with family members and friends.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Guide kids to turn to the back of their activity pages to complete "Jesus' Family Tree." Lead kids to use their Bibles to fill in the names for the family members who are a part of Jesus' family. Discuss how God planned for these specific people to be part of Jesus' family.

Discuss how **God planned for the people in God's family to point to Jesus as the true King.** Lead kids to consider how this promise gives us hope and confidence to trust in God.

## PRAY

Lead the group in prayer. Pray over families, and ask God to bring families to saving faith in Jesus. Thank God for the family of Jesus and how God worked through this family line to bring us our good and perfect King—Jesus.



## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: ALL IN THE FAMILY

*Provide: “Jesus’ Genealogy” (item 14), sheets of construction paper with numbers written on them (1 per TeamKID), marker, tape, music.*

- Tape the numbered pieces of paper in a circle on the floor. Direct kids to stand on a numbered spot. Review some of the names of Jesus’ genealogy as a group.
- Play music and ask kids to walk around the circle. When the music is stopped, call out a number. The kid standing on the chosen number will have to say the name of someone in Jesus’ family. Continue playing, calling out different numbers and trying not to repeat names.
- Remind TeamKIDS of all the people who were part of Jesus’ family line. Discuss how each family member was a part of God’s plan to bring Jesus into the world.

### OPTION 2: PASS THE CROWN

*Provide: Bible, 2 toy or paper crowns (1 per team)*

- Guide kids to form two groups and line up single file. Provide each group with a paper crown. Direct groups to alternate passing the crown over their heads and under their legs until the crown reaches the end of the line. Then, direct TeamKIDS to pass the crown back to the front of the line.
- Remind TeamKIDS that King David was a member of Jesus’ earthly family. Read 2 Samuel 7:12-13. Explain that God made a promise to King David that one day the true King would come who would sit on the throne forever. **God planned for the people in God’s family, including King David, to point to Jesus as the true King.**

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: “David Livingstone Photo” (item 15), “David Livingstone’s Important Mission” (item 16), tape (1 roll per group), yarn (1 skein per group)*

Show TeamKIDS the “David Livingstone Photo” (item 15). Ask a volunteer to read “David Livingstone’s Important Mission” (item 16).

- **Say:** One of the reasons we admire David Livingstone is because he saw the value in all people. He knew that slavery was wrong, and he tried to help others see that. He believed that Jesus had come to earth for all people.

Guide kids to form pairs or small groups. Explain that they will use the yarn to make a path from one side of the room to the next. Assign each group a starting point and an ending point (bookshelf to the door; table to the chair in the far corner). Direct groups to tape their yarn to the starting point and then make a path—as creative as they want it to be—to the ending point. When they arrive at the end, cut their string and tape the yarn at the end. Allow each group to show the path their yarn made from the start to the finish.

Consider reviewing the missions video “Missionary Explorer—David Livingstone” from Session 1.

- **Say:** These pathways are pretty crazy! Sometimes the pathways we take in missions seem crazy, too. David Livingstone was a missionary who created new pathways in Africa. We need to always ask God what pathways we should take in standing up for what is right and bringing the good news of the promised Savior to people everywhere.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: CATERPILLAR CRAWL (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 7)

*Provide: Index cards—write 1 word of the Key Verse on each card, 1 set of cards per team*

- Place index cards on one side of the playing area in verse order. Guide players to form two teams on the other side of the playing area. Players on each team lie side by side on their backs, and Player One from each team will roll forward until he is on his back again. Then Player Two will do the same, then Player Three until each team rolls forward. Player One will collect an index card and move to the back of the line. Play continues with Player Two becoming the new leader. Once all index cards are collected, the team can work together to put the cards in order. The first team to do so correctly wins!
- Debrief: Remind kids that Jesus is not only our Creator, who was with God in the beginning, but He is also the One God promised to send. We can trust God's Word because God is always truthful.

### GENEALOGY MATCH UP (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 12)

*No supplies needed.*

- Kids will form two teams, Red and Blue. The Red Team must link arms and form a "genealogy" chain before the Blue Team tags them. If a Blue Team player tags a Red Team player before she links arms in the chain, she must freeze until tagged by one of her teammates.
- Switch and allow the Blue Team to try and form the chain next.
- Debrief: Remind kids that genealogies are kind of like long family chains. Discuss how important genealogies are in the Bible and how they help us see God's plan for the Messiah, which was fulfilled through specific families.

### AMOEBAS TAG (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 13)

*No supplies needed.*

- Kids will play a simple game of tag with a twist. One player will be the tagger. Each runner she tags will link arms with her and join in tagging other players. As the game continues, the chain of players will grow. Continue play until all players are part of the chain. Restart the game with the last player caught as the new tagger.
- Debrief: Remind TeamKIDS that Jesus' family was a long chain of descendants that traced their family all the way back to the first human, Adam. Jesus' genealogy reminds us that God had a plan from the beginning to send Jesus as the true King. The people in God's family were part of a much bigger plan than they probably realized. **God planned for the people in God's family to point to Jesus as the true King.**

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: “Questions with Kids” slide*

Display the “Questions with Kids” slide

- **Ask:** What is a good idea that God had for us?

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today’s study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today’s activity page.

- **Say:** Before Jesus was born, He was in heaven with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. At just the right time, God sent Jesus to earth as a human, and Jesus became part of an earthly family.
- This was God’s very good idea. God had been working through a family all throughout the Old Testament to bring about the birth of a Savior and King. **God planned for the people in God’s family to point to Jesus as the true King.**

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, “Key Verse” slide*

Lead TeamKIDs to say and discuss today’s Key Verse. Remind the group that Jesus is the One God promised to send. He is God the Son, and was with God at the beginning of creation. Then, Jesus became human to fulfill God’s plan at just the right time.

### PRAY

Thank God for our Savior, King Jesus. Thank God for working through many of Jesus’ family members to point us to Jesus, the true King of everything.

### DISMISS

*Provide: “Unit 1 Parent Connections” (item 11), Unit 1 Blank slide or sheets of paper with the following Bible names: Abraham, Ruth, David, Mary, Adam, Joseph*

Play a quick game of Reverse Charades. Ask for a TeamKID to volunteer to come to the front of the room. With her back to a screen, display a Bible person’s name on the screen from the family line of Jesus. Encourage other TeamKIDs to try to act out characteristics of that person for the TeamKID to guess who it is. Encourage kids to consider using some of the following motions:

Sample motions: Old Testament—form an “O” above your head;  
New Testament—make a fist and put hands out beside you in form of a cross;  
king—pretend to place a crown on your head, and so forth)

- **Abraham** (Old Testament, stars in the sky)
- **Ruth** (Old Testament, picking up wheat)
- **David** (Old Testament, king, shepherd)
- **Mary** (New Testament, mother rocking baby)
- **Adam** (Old Testament, eating fruit)
- **Joseph** (New Testament, hammering something as a carpenter)

If technology is not available, write the words on sheets of paper for kids to select and play like regular charades.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his personal belongings, activity page, and Parent Connection.

## SESSION 3

# THE ARRIVAL

TODAY'S POINT: AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME, JESUS WAS BORN TO FULFILL GOD'S PROMISE.

### BIBLE STORY

The Birth and Boyhood of Jesus (Luke 2)

### KEY VERSE

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 11).

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 1 slide
- ☐ Session 3 slide
- ☐ Unit 1 Countdown Video

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### SWADDLE WADDLE RELAY

- ☐ Small blanket or towel for each group
- ☐ Small ball for each group

#### I THE KING/QUEEN

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Crown (optional)

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Gospel Party" missions video
- ☐ "World Map" (item 8)
- ☐ Sheet or parachute
- ☐ Inflatable ball or small object

### GAMES

#### CATERPILLAR CRAWL (PLAYBOOK, P 7)

- ☐ Index cards (write 1 word of the Key Verse on each card, 1 set of cards per team)

#### GUIDES (PLAYBOOK, P 14)

- ☐ Blindfolds
- ☐ Obstacle course with various objects

#### PERFECT TIMING (PLAYBOOK, P 15)

- ☐ Index cards with various tasks written on them

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 1 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ Drinking straws (1 per child)
- ☐ Small cups (1 per row of children)
- ☐ "Unit 1 Parent Connections" (item 11)

# LEADER DEVOTION

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## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Luke 2:25-32 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

In the middle of Luke 2, we read about a man named Simeon who was looking for Israel's consolation—the comfort or hope that God would come to rescue His people. When Simeon entered the temple and saw the child, Jesus, he knew that hope had arrived. Immanuel, God with us, had come to live among us and bring salvation and light to all people. Jesus came be that light—to restore our relationship with God through His life, ministry, death, and resurrection. Because the Messiah did come, through faith in Him, we can be part of His kingdom now and look forward to the hope and comfort of being with God forever.

## CONSIDER

- Simeon was hoping and looking forward to the birth of Jesus. How are you hoping in Jesus in your day to day life?
- How are you hoping in the promise of Jesus' return?
- What does it mean that Jesus is Immanuel, God with us? Why might it have been important for Jesus to leave heaven and come to us?



## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: GOOD NEWS (5–10 MINUTES)

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive and ask them to stand in the middle of the room. Direct kids to listen to some “news” you’re going to share. If the news is good, they will run to the right side of the room. If the news is bad, they will run to the left side of the room.

- Examples of good news: you’ve been invited to a birthday party; you made a perfect score on a test; you’re going to an amusement park; and so forth.
- Examples of bad news: you broke a bone; you dropped your ice cream cone; you lost your favorite toy/game; and so forth.

**Say:** We have all experienced hearing good news and bad news. Sometimes the good news is so good that we are filled with joy and happiness. We may jump up and down, scream, or run around in excitement. Did you know that hundreds of years ago, the best good news EVER was announced? In today’s Bible study we are going to learn about this really good news.

### BIBLE STUDY: THE BIRTH AND BOYHOOD OF JESUS (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 9 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

**Say:** The promise God made in the garden of Eden was about to come true. Israel had waited and waited for the Messiah who was going to bring salvation to all people. God planned for many people in Israel’s history to be part of Jesus’ family including Adam, Abraham, and King David. Now, at just the right time, according to God’s perfect plan, Jesus would be born. God the Son was going to leave heaven to become a human baby.

### DEFINE IT: IMMANUEL—God with us (Matthew 1:23)

**Say:** The book of Isaiah in the Old Testament tells us something very important about Jesus. Isaiah, a prophet or special messenger from God, wrote that this Promised One would be called Immanuel. Immanuel means God with us. Isaiah was telling the people that this Promised One would come and dwell or live among people. Just like God lived among Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, the arrival of Jesus meant that He would come and live among people so He could fulfill God’s plan and make a way for us to be with God again. Let’s open our Bibles to Luke 2 and learn more about the arrival of Jesus.

Leader  
Tip: Consider  
marking Bible  
passages for kids to  
read during Bible  
study. Utilize slides  
as needed.

## THE BIRTH AND BOYHOOD OF JESUS BASED ON LUKE 2

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- A little over 2,000 years ago, an announcement was made by Caesar Augustus
- which required every person under Roman rule at the time to return to their
- hometowns to be registered or counted in a census. A man named Joseph and his
- wife Mary had to travel to the town of Bethlehem because Joseph was from the
- family of David. Mary was pregnant with Jesus. While they were there, the promise
- that God made at the very beginning of creation came true. Jesus, the Promised
- One, arrived. Mary gave birth to her firstborn son.

Read Luke 2:10-14, or ask a TeamKID to read these verses.

- **Ask:** What was the good news the angels told the shepherds? (A Savior has been born for you,
- who is Messiah, the Lord, Luke 2:11)

- When Jesus was born, an angel appeared to shepherds and announced the good
- news that Jesus had arrived. Then, a whole multitude of angels filled the night
- sky, praising and worshiping God. God had kept His promise. After Jesus was
- born, Mary and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem and dedicated Jesus in the temple.
- While they were there, a man named Simeon was led by the Holy Spirit to the
- temple. God had made a very interesting promise to Simeon.

Read Luke 2:25-32.

- **Ask:** What promise did God make to Simeon? What did Simeon do when he saw Jesus? (He would
- not die before he saw the Promised One. He praised God. )

- When Simeon saw Jesus, he knew instantly that this was the Promised One, the
- Messiah God sent to rescue people. Simeon announced in the temple that this
- child was the salvation of the people—the light and hope for both the people of
- Israel and all other nations. After Jesus was dedicated at the temple in Jerusalem,
- Mary and Joseph returned home with their new son to Nazareth. Jesus grew up
- in Nazareth where he became strong and filled with wisdom, and God's grace was
- on him. As a boy, Jesus traveled with his family every year to Jerusalem for the
- Passover Festival. But one time, when Jesus was 12 years old, He stayed behind in
- Jerusalem.

Read Luke 2:43-47, or encourage a TeamKID to read these verses aloud.

- **Ask:** Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus? (in the temple with the religious teachers)

- After three days of searching for Jesus, Mary and Joseph found Him in the
- temple, sitting among the teachers. Jesus was listening to them and asking
- questions, and they were amazed at His understanding. Jesus was in the temple,
- God's dwelling place, because He knew that He had come to do the will of His
- Father. The promised Messiah for whom the people had waited for years and years,
- was finally here!



## GOING DEEPER

- **Say:** The arrival of Jesus was good news! Just as God the Father had promised at the beginning of creation, the Promised One had come to bring salvation to people. **At just the right time, Jesus was born to fulfill God's promise.** He came to take the punishment of sin and shame and to give us life when we trust and believe in Him for salvation. He is the promised King who came for us.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- Where was Jesus born? (Bethlehem)
- Why is Jesus' arrival important? (Jesus came to fulfill God's promise and be our Savior.)
- Why were the shepherds praising and glorifying God? (They had seen and heard that the Messiah had been born. They experienced God's promise coming true.)

### Older Kids

- Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. How are you rejoicing in the good news of Jesus, our Savior? (Answers will vary. Encourage kids to discuss the importance of worshiping Jesus and understanding why His arrival is such good news for us. Share with kids how they can trust in Jesus for salvation and be ready to talk with any child further who has questions.)
- As Jesus grew older, He was focused on fulfilling His Father's mission. He knew that He was supposed to be in the temple doing the work of His Father. How are you seeking to follow God? In what ways are you on mission for Him? (Answers will vary. Guide kids to discuss how they can use their gifts, talents, or hobbies to glorify God and help other people.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Allow time for kids to complete "Study a Bible Person: Jesus" in their activity books. Explain to TeamKIDs that there are many ways to study our Bibles. We can study about Bible books, Bible verses, and even Bible people. Today we are going to take a deeper look and learn about a person in our Bibles—Jesus! Encourage TeamKIDs that they can continue learning more about Jesus at home with their families this week.

## PRAY

Lead kids in a prayer. Thank God that Jesus came to fulfill God's promise. Ask God to help each child to grow in wisdom, knowledge, and faith as they study and learn more about Jesus.

## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: SWADDLE WADDLE RELAY

*Provide: Small blanket or towel and ball for each team*

- Guide TeamKIDS to form two to three groups.
- Direct each group to line up and take turns doing the Swaddle Waddle. On his turn, a TeamKID will wrap the blanket around the ball, place the wrapped ball between his knees, and waddle to the end of the room and back. If the ball falls out, the player must go back to the start and try again.
- The group that has everyone complete the Swaddle Waddle first, wins!
- Discuss how Mary swaddled Jesus after He was born and placed Him in a manger. Remind kids that Jesus wasn't born in a palace. He was born in a lowly stable and came to serve those He would save. He is our humble, servant King.

### OPTION 2: I, THE KING/QUEEN

*Provide: Bible, crown (optional)*

- Instruct TeamKIDS to stand in a line side by side. Select a child to stand at the front of the room and be the king. Explain that the king will call out "I, the king, command you to . . ." and name an action for everyone to do, such as jump up and down or wiggle their ears. As the king gives his command, he moves to one end of the line. The child standing at the other end of the line becomes the new king/queen. Play until all kids have had at least one turn.
- Lead kids to turn in their Bibles to Isaiah 9:6. Invite a TeamKID to read this verse aloud. Guide kids to discuss what this verse teaches us about Jesus. Explain that the prophet Isaiah wrote these words many years before Jesus was born. God had a plan for Jesus to be a different kind of king, one who would come to be the promised Savior. Encourage kids to repeat the names of Jesus listed in Isaiah 9:6.

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: "World Map" (item 8), "Gospel Party" missions video, sheet or parachute, inflatable ball or other small object*

- **Say:** Welcome back to missions. Let's use our imaginations to fly to Italy where we will meet the Worthys. They are a missionary family who use special events like camps, parties, and fellowships to introduce people to Jesus.

Ask a volunteer to find Italy on the "World Map" (item 8), then show the video, "Gospel Party."

- **Say:** During camp events and parties, the Worthys play games, like parachute games, and introduce stories from the Bible. Let's practice telling what we've learned about Jesus' birth and boyhood as we play. Learning to tell other people what we learn from the Bible is one way we can be on mission.

Invite kids to sit around the parachute. Put the ball or small object in the middle and invite kids to gently shake the parachute. When the ball falls out, ask a volunteer to share one thing they remember from this session's Bible story.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: CATERPILLAR CRAWL (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 7)

*Provide: Index cards—write one word of the Key Verse on each card, one set of cards per team*

- Place index cards on one side of the playing area in verse order. Guide players to form two teams on the other side of the playing area. Players on each team lie side by side on their backs, and Player One from each team will roll forward until he is on his back again. Then Player Two will do the same, then Player Three until each team rolls forward. Player One will collect an index card and move to the back of the line. Play continues with Player Two becoming the new leader. Once all index cards are collected, the team can work together to put the cards in order. The first team to do so correctly wins!
- Debrief: Remind kids that Jesus is not only our Creator, who was with God in the beginning, but He is also the One God promised to send. We can trust God's Word because God is always truthful.

### GUIDES (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 14)

*Provide: Blindfolds, obstacle course with various objects*

- Blindfolded players will be guided by their partners across a floor scattered with obstacles. If an obstacle is "hit," that team is out. The team that reaches the other side first without hitting an obstacle wins!
- Remind kids of how the Holy Spirit guided Simeon to the temple to see Jesus similar to how they helped guide their teammates. Discuss how Simeon was awaiting the promise of the Messiah and how he got to see it come true.
- Debrief: Remind TeamKIDs that **at just the right time, Jesus was born to fulfill God's promise.**

### PERFECT TIMING (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 15)

*Provide: Index cards with various tasks written on them (For example: do 10 jumping jacks, hop on one leg, and so forth)*

- Teams of four to five players will work together to complete tasks in a limited time designated by the game leader. When a task is completed on time, the team gets a point. The team with the highest score wins!
- Debrief: Remind kids that God's timing is always perfect. God promised that He would send Jesus, the Promised One, way back at the start of creation. Many years had passed since God made His promise, and Jesus arrived at just the right time.

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: "Questions with Kids" slide*

Display the "Questions with Kids" slide.

- **Ask:** What is the big announcement we learned about in today's Bible study?

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today's study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today's activity page.

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, "Key Verse" slide*

Read today's Key Verse with TeamKIDs.

- **Say:** Isn't it comforting to know that we have a God who is always in control and keeps His word?
- Jesus left heaven and arrived on earth as a baby according to God's perfect timing. Jesus came to
- fulfill God's plan so that we can have a relationship with God again. God is always faithful to His
- promises. Let's share the good news of Jesus' arrival with others this week.

### PRAY

Lead the kids in a short prayer as you reflect on God's promises and the perfect timing of Jesus' arrival. Encourage a TeamKID to pray as well.

### DISMISS

*Provide: "Unit 1 Parent Connections" (item 11), Drinking straws (1 per child), small cups (1 per row of children)*

Lead TeamKIDs to sit or stand in lines or rows. Distribute drinking straws to each kid. Explain that in this game, kids will stand up and pass the cup to the TeamKID closest to them using only the plastic drinking straw. Consider having kid restart at the beginning if the cup hits the ground.

Explain to TeamKIDs that waiting for the cup to pass all the way down the line probably took a lot of patience.

- **Ask:** Did anyone start to lose hope that the cup would get to you? (Allow TeamKIDs to respond.)
- **Say:** You probably didn't lose hope that the cup would be passed to you because you could see it coming even from far away. Think about all of the people who for many years hoped in God's promise that He would send the Promised One. Many people didn't see when Jesus arrived, but they didn't lose hope because they believed and trusted God.

Lead TeamKIDs to say Today's Point with you: **At just the right time, Jesus was born to fulfill God's promise.** Encourage TeamKIDs to play again as time allows.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his personal belongings, activity page, and Parent Connection.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!

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## SESSION 4

# THE MESSENGER

**TODAY'S POINT: JOHN PREPARED THE PEOPLE FOR JESUS' ARRIVAL.**

### BIBLE STORY

John the Baptist Announced Jesus' Ministry (Mark 1:1-8; John 1:19-23)

### KEY VERSE

Repent and believe the good news!  
Mark 1:15b

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 11).

## AT A GLANCE

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### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 1 slide
- ☐ Session 4 slide
- ☐ Unit 1 Countdown Video
- ☐ Unit 1 Blank slide (optional)
- ☐ Dry erase board and marker
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Markers or crayons
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### MIXED MESSAGES

- ☐ Large interlocking blocks
- ☐ Dry erase board and marker (or poster board and regular marker)
- ☐ Bible

#### GOSPEL RELAY

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Pens or pencils
- ☐ Index cards

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Gospel Party" (missions video)
- ☐ "Worthy Family Photos" (item 17)

### GAMES

#### CATERPILLAR CRAWL (PLAYBOOK, P 7)

Index cards—write 1 word of the Key Verse on each card, 1 set of cards per team

#### WHEELBARROW U-TURN (PLAYBOOK, P 16)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

#### PREPARE THE WAY (PLAYBOOK, P 17)

- ☐ Bean bags (1 per team),
- ☐ 7 cups (per team),
- ☐ "Stepping stones"—7 (per team)

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 1 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide
- ☐ "Unit 1 Parent Connections" (item 11)

# LEADER DEVOTION

## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read John 1:19-23 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

In the book of Isaiah, we find a poem from the prophet Isaiah about God's people and a coming hope. The people of God (the Jews) believed that Jerusalem was going to be the physical city where God would reign over the world as King and bring peace and blessing to all nations. But in Isaiah 40 we learn that Jerusalem had been invaded by its enemies (the Babylonians), and many had been taken captive in exile. God's people were left confused, scared, and unprotected because of their rebellion and idolatry against God. But God brings comforting hope to His brokenhearted people.

"A voice of one crying out: Prepare the way of the LORD in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert . . . And the glory of the LORD will appear and all humanity together will see it, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." (Isaiah 40:3,5)

This promise from God in Isaiah 40 is one of hope and comfort. Though the city of Jerusalem had been destroyed, hope remained. God promised that there would be One coming to prepare the way for God's reign and His kingdom, the Promised One, and that there would be a special messenger or voice to announce this good news.

Before the start of Jesus' earthly ministry, God raised up a voice in the wilderness who called people to repentance and spoke of the coming kingdom of God. The messenger God chose was none other than Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist. While John was baptizing people, he was pointing others to the only true Messiah, Jesus Christ, who would pour out His Spirit on those who believe by faith. John recognized that he was only a simple messenger of the King, yet he was bold in his message of urging others to turn to Jesus for forgiveness. In obedience, John prepared the people for Jesus' arrival. He called people to repent and believe in Jesus and become part of God's kingdom.

## CONSIDER

- A messenger was prophesied to come and announce the arrival of Jesus' ministry (Isaiah 40:3 and Malachi 3:1). How does John the Baptist's message in John 1:19-23 reflect that he is the fulfillment of this prophecy?
- Repentance (turning or changing from disobeying God to obeying Him) is an essential aspect of faith in Jesus. Without change there is no genuine repentance. Is there any sin in your life right now that you need to confess to God and repent? Spend time in prayer and in your Bible, asking God to reveal anything that might hinder you from deeper faith and trust in Him.

## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: MEGAPHONE MESSENGERS (5–10 MINUTES)

*Provide: “Unit 1 Blank” slide (optional), dry-erase board and marker, paper, tape, markers or crayons.*

Create the following messages on the blank slide provided in unit 1 or write the following messages on a dry-erase board: “Jesus is King; The dog ate my homework; Gospel means good news. /I love gorillas!

Welcome TeamKIDS as they arrive and hand them a piece of paper.

Allow TeamKIDS to decorate their papers as others arrive. Then, encourage kids to create megaphones by rolling their papers into cone shapes and taping them to hold their shape.

Draw attention to the messages written on the board (or on the prepared slides). Explain that each TeamKID will choose a special message, but not tell anyone what message he chose. Then, on the count of three, kids will use their megaphones to shout out their messages. As kids shout their messages, they should find other kids who are shouting the same message and form groups.

Congratulate kids on finding their messengers. Play again as time allows.

- **Say:** You all shouted some great messages. Today we are going to learn about a messenger who
- was chosen by God to announce a very important message.

### BIBLE STUDY: JOHN THE BAPTIST ANNOUNCED JESUS’ MINISTRY (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 11 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

- **Say:** We have been talking a lot recently about beginnings. We’ve talked about the book of
- beginnings (Genesis) that tells us about the beginning of the world, sin, people, and God’s
- important promise.

Call on a TeamKID who volunteers to share about the promise God made at the beginning (to send the Promised One to make a way for people to be with God again.)

- **Say:** Great job! For years and years, God’s people waited and hoped for God’s promise to come
- true. And finally, at just the right time Jesus was born. Jesus’ arrival meant that God had kept His
- promise. Today, we are going to look in our Bibles at another beginning. Even though Jesus had
- arrived and had grown up in the town of Nazareth, He had not yet made it clear to everyone why He
- had come. Jesus’ ministry—what God had sent Him to do—was to tell others about the kingdom of
- God and how they could be part of it. But first, God planned for a special messenger to announce
- the arrival of Jesus’ ministry. This messenger was called by God to help people recognize and repent
- of their sin, seek forgiveness, and point to Jesus as their Savior. Let’s open our Bibles to learn more.

**DEFINE IT: REPENT**—to turn or change from disobeying God to obeying God

**DEFINE IT: KINGDOM OF GOD**—God’s rule and power over all He has made; God wants people to follow and submit to His rule and authority because they love and trust Him

Consider marking Bible passages for kids to read during Bible study. Utilize slides as needed.

## JOHN THE BAPTIST ANNOUNCED JESUS' MINISTRY BASED ON MARK 1:1-8; JOHN 1:19-23

Read Mark 1:1, or ask a TeamKID to read this verse.

- **Ask:** What word or words stand out to you in this verse? (Allow TeamKIDs to respond. Be ready to point out and explain the words shared such as beginning, gospel, and Son of God.)

- These are the first words of the Gospel of Mark. Mark, the writer of this Bible book, chose to start at the beginning. He didn't start at the beginning of Jesus' genealogy, like Matthew and Luke. Neither did he start at the beginning of who Jesus is, like John. Instead, Mark's Gospel book starts at "the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." The gospel is the good news of the fulfillment of God's promises in the Old Testament about the Promised One—Jesus. Right after verse 1, Mark tells his readers some very good news. God fulfilled another Old Testament promise!

Read Mark 1:2-3, or ask a TeamKID to read these verses aloud.

- These verses in Mark quote an Old Testament promise that God made in the book of Isaiah. (See Isaiah 40:3.) God promised His people, at a time when they were very sad and confused, that one day a messenger would come with a special announcement. This messenger would proclaim the good news that the Lord was coming—the Promised One.

- **Ask:** Who do you think this messenger might have been? (John the Baptist)

Read Mark 1:4-8 or ask an older TeamKID to read these verses aloud.

- A man named John appeared, and he began to baptize people in the wilderness. We learn in another Gospel book that John was a relative of Jesus. (See Luke 1:5-45.) John was the special messenger that God promised in Isaiah. John the Baptist told people that they needed to repent and be baptized. He also shared that there was One who was coming after him, and the people needed to get ready to meet Him.

Explain that baptize means to lower someone in the water and bring him or her back up. The person who is baptized is following Jesus' example by showing others that he or she has confessed Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Read John 1:19-23 or ask a TeamKID to read these verses aloud.

- **Ask:** Who did the priests and Levites guess John might be? Who did John the Baptist say he was? (the Christ, Elijah, a Prophet; John said he was the voice calling out in the wilderness preparing the way of the Lord.)

- John was not the Messiah (Savior), but he was sent to proclaim the good news of Jesus' arrival. John was bold in his message and not afraid to speak what was true. God's Word led John to tell people about their need to repent (turn away) from sin and ask for forgiveness. Jesus was coming to proclaim the good news of God and His kingdom, and John was sent to prepare the way, just as God promised in the book of Isaiah.



## GOING DEEPER

- **Say:** John the Baptist understood that God gave him a special mission. **John** was the messenger told about in the Old Testament who **prepared the people for Jesus' arrival**. John knew that Jesus was God the Son, and that Jesus had come just as God promised. Jesus came to follow God's plan and make a way for people to be forgiven of their sins.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- **Who was John the Baptist?** (John was a special messenger set apart by God to prepare people for the arrival of Jesus' ministry.)
- **What did John the Baptist do?** (He baptized people, called them to repentance, and prepared them for the arrival of Jesus.)
- **Why was John baptizing people and calling them to repent?** (Jesus was about to start His earthly ministry, and John wanted the people to be prepared for God's coming kingdom.)

### Older Kids

- **Baptism doesn't save us. Only faith in Jesus does. How does baptism show others our faith in Jesus?** (Baptism is an outward picture of our faith. Before we are baptized, we need to repent, trust in Jesus, and surrender to His authority and rule in our lives. We recognize that we are sinners and need forgiveness. By trusting in Jesus, we show that only He can forgive our sin. Be ready to go deeper in sharing the gospel with kids.)
- **How can you be a messenger and announce the good news about Jesus?** (We can tell others about the good news of the gospel and God's promises; we can be bold and stand up for truth even when it is hard or scary; we can share why we have hope in God; and so forth.)
- **Not everyone liked John's message. Why is the message about Jesus so important that we would risk our lives and freedom to share it with others?** (People need to hear about the good news of Jesus so they can repent and trust in Him.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Guide kids to turn to the back of their activity pages to complete "Spot the Difference." Explain that TeamKIDs will find five differences between the two pictures.

## PRAY

Pray or ask a TeamKID who volunteers to pray. Ask God to help strengthen and equip each child to be a messenger for God.

## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: MIXED MESSAGES

*Provide: Large interlocking blocks; dry erase board and marker or poster board and regular marker; Bible*

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news! (Mark 1:15)

Using a dry erase marker, write out the following words from the Key Verse on the blocks: time, fulfilled, kingdom, repent, believe. Write Mark 1:15 on the dry erase board or a poster board, with these words missing. Mix up the blocks so kids will have to figure out the word order. Make a set for each group.

- Guide kids into groups of three or four, and provide each group with a set of blocks.
- Lead kids to look at today's Key Verse (Mark 1:15) written on the dry erase or poster board, noticing that some words are missing from the verse. Direct kids to unscramble their blocks in the correct order of the missing words. (TeamKIDs may want to use their Bibles for help.) Ask each team to raise their hands when they are finished and read the completed verse to you.
- Read the verse together as a class and encourage kids to not only share this message with others, but to believe it themselves.

### OPTION 2: GOSPEL RELAY

*Provide: Bibles, pens or pencils, and index cards with the following verse references (1 set per team):*  
M\_\_\_\_w 1:21, M\_\_\_\_ 1:15, M\_\_\_\_w 3:4, M\_\_\_\_ 1:1, L\_\_\_\_ 2:20, L\_\_\_\_ 3:18, J\_\_\_\_ 1:1, J\_\_\_\_ 20:31

- Form teams of four kids. Ask each team to make a line at one end of the room. Direct teams to select one player at a time to race to the other end of the room, retrieve a verse card, and return to her team. Explain how each team will then need to determine which Gospel book goes with the verse and reference and write the book on the card. The team with the most matches in the fastest time wins!
- Explain that gospel means “good news.” The four Gospel books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) give us the good news of Jesus. Each book gives us a different viewpoint or perspective on the teachings, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: “Worthy Family Photos” (item 17)*

Display the photos and ask volunteers to read the captions under the photos that describe more about the life and ministry of the Worthy family in Italy.

Consider reviewing the missions video “Gospel Party” from Session 3.

• **Ask:** What comes to mind when you think about Italy? (Lead TeamKIDs to think about what they know of Italy already.)

• **Say:** The Worthys have chosen to live in the Italian culture so they can connect to people on a deep, personal level. As they live life as an American-Italian family in Italy, the Worthys are bringing hope to the people who don't yet know Jesus. They are messengers of the good news!

Encourage kids to discuss how they might be messengers of the good news if they visited Italy. They can use some of the things they know about Italy as a starting point. For example, they might share a pasta dinner with new friends and tell them about Jesus. Or they might ask a tour guide if he knows about Jesus.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: CATERPILLAR CRAWL (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 7)

*Provide: Index cards—write one word of the Key Verse on each card, one set of cards per team*

- Place index cards on one side of the playing area in verse order. Guide players to form two teams on the other side of the playing area. Players on each team lie side by side on their backs, and Player One from each team will roll forward until he is on his back again. Then Player Two will do the same, then Player Three until each team rolls forward. Player One will collect an index card and move to the back of the line. Play continues with Player Two becoming the new leader. Once all index cards are collected, the team can work together to put the cards in order. The first team to do so correctly wins!
- Debrief: Read Mark 1:15 or invite a TeamKID to read this verse. Explain that at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, He began proclaiming this message throughout all of Galilee. Jesus came to point people to God and His kingdom. People who are part of God's kingdom are those who trust in Jesus for salvation and submit to God's rule and authority in their lives. Help TeamKIDS understand that they can share this good news with everyone!

### WHEELBARROW U-TURN (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 16)

*No supplies needed.*

- Lead TeamKIDS to pair up with a partner. Direct partners to one side of the playing area and explain that they will race to the other side.
- Partners will choose who will be the wheelbarrow and who will hold up the wheelbarrow. When the game leader calls out "u-turn," partners will turn and go in the opposite direction. Continue redirecting until a team crosses the finish line.
- Debrief: Remind TeamKIDS of how John the Baptist called people to repentance, which is like making a u-turn with our words, thoughts, and actions. Explain that repent means to turn or change from disobeying God to obeying God. We turn away from sin and go in the direction that leads us to look more like Jesus.

### PREPARE THE WAY (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 17)

*Provide: Bean bags (1 per team), 7 cups (per team), "stepping stones"—7 strips of paper with a word or phrase of the main point written on each strip, then crumpled into balls (per team)*

- Place a stepping stone under each cup. Using bean bags, TeamKIDS will work as teams to knock over the cups and collect the stepping stones. The team that collects all the stepping stones and lines them up with the correct message first, wins the game!
- Debrief: Discuss the message on the stepping stones and how John the Baptist was called by God to prepare the way for Jesus' arrival. Review today's Bible study and guide TeamKIDS to discuss what they learned.

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: “Questions with Kids” slide*

Display the “Questions with Kids” slide.

- **Ask:** What is the good news of the gospel?

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today’s study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today’s activity page.

- **Say:** Long before John the Baptist was born, God made a promise to His people that He would send a messenger to announce the coming of the Promised One. God fulfilled His promise. He set John apart to be that special, promised messenger. John told others that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. He helped people understand that Jesus was the true King and He was bringing the kingdom of God to the people—a kingdom that calls people to live differently as they trust in Jesus.

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, “Key Verse” slide*

Review the Key Verse (Mark 1:15) and encourage TeamKIDs to repeat the verse after you. Explain that this verse teaches us the important message that Jesus told people during His ministry. He wanted people to understand that they were called to repent of their sin and believe in the good news of the gospel.

Remind kids that as they have questions about God, Jesus, or the gospel, that you and other leaders are available to answer any questions and help them understand what it means to trust in Jesus for salvation.

### PRAY

Ask TeamKIDs if they have any prayer requests. Lead TeamKIDs in a prayer, thanking God for His Word and the good news of Jesus coming for us.

### DISMISS

*Provide: “Unit 1 Parent Connections” (item 11)*

Lead TeamKIDs to form groups. Explain that the goal is for groups to get everyone in their group jumping first. Designate one person in each group as the group leader. On your count, the group leader will begin jumping. He or she will then tap the shoulder of the person next to him who will begin to jump. This continues until the entire group is jumping. The first section or group that has all of its participants jumping (while following the rules of waiting to be tapped to participate) will be the winning group.

Continue play as TeamKIDs are dismissed, changing the action as time allows (patting head, jumping on one foot, and so forth)

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child her personal belongings, activity page, and Parent Connection.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!



## SESSION 5

# THE SON

TODAY'S POINT: JESUS IS GOD'S SON AND WAS BAPTIZED.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus Was Baptized (Matthew 3:13-17)

### KEY VERSE

Repent and believe the good news!  
Mark 1:15b

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 11).

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 1 slide
- ☐ Session 5 slide
- ☐ Unit 1 Countdown Video

- ☐ "Events in History" (item 18)
- ☐ Small basket
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### SCAVENGER HUNT

- ☐ 8 craft sticks

#### EMOJI FOUR CORNER BLITZ

- ☐ 4 signs with different emoji symbols drawn on them (happy, sad, excited, scared)

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Gospel Fills the Airways" missions video
- ☐ "World Map" (item 8)
- ☐ Microphone

### GAMES

#### THE KINGDOM (PLAYBOOK, P 8)

- ☐ Pool noodles (1 per kid)

#### BALLOON TOSS (PLAYBOOK, P 18)

- ☐ Five different colored balloons (1 set per team)
- ☐ "Allergy Alert" (item 4)

#### KINGDOM COME (PLAYBOOK, P 19)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 1 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ "Unit 1 Parent Connections" (item 11)

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# LEADER DEVOTION

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## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Matthew 3:13-17 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

The baptism of Jesus was recorded in all four Gospel books and reveals a common thread—God the Father declared that Jesus is the Son of God. (For further study, read Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22, and John 1:29-34.)

It is important to note that the Father's words at Jesus' baptism blended together two important Old Testament texts, Psalm 2 and Isaiah 42. Isaiah's words were later applied to Jesus in Matthew 12:18-21. Psalm 2 was a song that was sung at the crowning of Israel's kings: "I will declare the LORD's decree. He said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father'" (Psalm 2:7). Isaiah 42 describes the Father's chosen servant: "This is my servant; I strengthen him, this is my chosen one; I delight in him" (Isaiah 42:1a). With this Old Testament background in mind, we see that the Father's words not only identify Jesus as His Son, but as the King and Savior.

As we consider Jesus' baptism in this session, emphasize Jesus' deity with kids, drawing attention to God the Father's declaration of Jesus' Sonship. Help kids notice that John the Baptist recognized Jesus as God's Son as he questioned why he would baptize Jesus. Yet, Jesus' ministry began with His baptism to demonstrate obedience to His Father, and it was a means for Him to fulfill all righteousness. Even though Jesus had no sin of which to repent because He is God the Son, His baptism marked the precedent for a life that seeks after the righteousness of God. Through His baptism Jesus demonstrated His willingness to partake in every obedient act so that we could be counted righteous through Him. Indeed, He is "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29b)

## CONSIDER

- Why was Jesus' baptism significant?
- Jesus always demonstrated perfect obedience to His Father. How are you seeking to obey God in your life? Is there any area right now that He is calling you to surrender and obey?
- How does knowing Jesus perfectly obeyed God bring you comfort and peace when you fail?

## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: BIG EVENT—FACT OR FICTION (5–10 MINUTES)

*Provide: “Events in History” (item 18), a small basket*

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video to get started.

Lead kids to form two teams. Explain that as you choose a card and read it aloud kids will have ten seconds to determine if the event described is fact or fiction. Each correct answer earns the team five points. Continue play as TeamKIDs arrive.

For an added challenge, display people from long ago with people from today.

- **Ask:** How did you recognize if these events were true or not? (Allow TeamKIDs to respond.)
- **Say:** It may have been challenging to determine what was true from what was fiction. We may not have witnessed many of the true events firsthand, but we trust the sources who recorded these events. Even more, we know that these events happened because of the reliable witnesses and tests that these documents had to go through to verify their truthfulness.
- **Ask:** What about the Bible? Can we trust that it is true? (Allow TeamKIDs to discuss.)
- **Say:** We believe the Bible is true because it is from God. Also, there are eye-witness accounts and standards that Bible books have passed to make sure that these events are true. Today, we are going to study about an important event in the life of Jesus. No one here saw this event, but we believe it is true because it is recorded in the Bible.

### BIBLE STUDY: JESUS WAS BAPTIZED (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 13 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

Consider marking Bible passages for kids to read during Bible study. Utilize slides as needed.

- **Ask:** Can anyone remember what the four Gospel books are called? (Matthew, Mark Luke, and John.)
- **Say:** Great job. These four books in the Bible—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—are all called Gospel books because they tell about the good news of Jesus. Each gospel writer gives us the same information, but with different details because they all wrote to different audiences.
- So far, we’ve been talking about the first part of what these Gospel books teach about: the arrival of the Promised One—Jesus. We’ve studied about the family of Jesus, His birth, and even the messenger that God sent to announce to the people that Jesus was coming. Today, we are going to see what important event happened right before Jesus began His ministry. We can read about this event in all four Gospel books. Each account of this true event tells us the same thing—that Jesus is the Son of God. Let’s study about this important event!

**DEFINE IT: BAPTIZE**—to lower someone in the water and bring him or her back up. The person who is baptized is following Jesus’ example by showing others that he or she has confessed Jesus as Savior and Lord.

## JESUS WAS BAPTIZED BASED ON MATTHEW 3:13-17

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Read Matthew 3:13-14, or ask a TeamKID to read these verses.

- **Ask:** What was John's response to Jesus? (He tried to stop Him and said that he needed to be baptized by Jesus.)

- John (also called John the Baptist) was a special messenger God sent to tell the people to get ready for the arrival of Jesus—the Promised One. John told the people that they needed to repent of their sin and be baptized. When Jesus came to John to be baptized, it was not because He needed to repent of sin. We know that Jesus was the One God promised would come, and He never sinned or disobeyed God.

Read Matthew 3:15, or ask a TeamKID to read this verse aloud.

- Jesus told John that He needed to be baptized to fulfill all righteousness. Jesus was baptized because He was setting an example for us to follow by obeying God. Jesus' perfect obedience to God was a way for Him to help us be counted as righteous and holy.

Read Matthew 3:16-17.

- **Ask:** What two events took place immediately after Jesus was baptized and the sky opened? (The Spirit of God descended on Jesus and a voice from heaven spoke.)

- After Jesus came up from the water and began to pray(see Luke 3:21), the sky opened up and the Holy Spirit descended and rested on Jesus. Then God the Father spoke from the heavens saying, "This is my beloved Son; with whom I am well pleased." In this moment, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were all present and participated in the baptism of Jesus. This was a big event!



## GOING DEEPER

**Say:** When Jesus asked John to baptize Him, John did not understand. He knew that Jesus was perfect and had no sins. John even thought that Jesus should baptize him instead! But God's plan included Jesus' baptism, and Jesus obeyed God by being baptized. Jesus is fully God and fully man. Jesus didn't need to be baptized to show that He was turning away from sin because Jesus never sinned!

Instead, God wanted Jesus to be baptized to show the world that Jesus is God's Son and that we should follow Jesus' example! John understood that even though Jesus was greater than him, he needed to baptize Jesus to obey God. Jesus obeyed His Father and was baptized as our example. **Jesus is God's Son and was baptized.** Baptism reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection. When someone is baptized they go under the water. This symbolizes death and burial. Then, they are brought back up from the water. This reminds of us Jesus' resurrection and the new life we can have in Him. Jesus came to be our King and rescue us from sin. He also came as a servant, to suffer in our place so we can know and trust in God.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- Did Jesus need to repent and be baptized because He had sinned? Why or why not? (No, he was perfect and holy. Jesus is God the Son.)
- How is Jesus our example for baptism? (He was obedient. He showed us the way to make a public announcement of our faith in Him and our need for forgiveness.)
- Who do you know that has been baptized? Have you been baptized? (Encourage kids to ask about next steps for baptism if they have trusted in Jesus. Remind kids that baptism does not save us. We are baptized to show we have trusted in Jesus and are obeying.)

### Older Kids

- Why do you think God was pleased with Jesus? (Allow kids to discuss. Explain that Jesus' baptism showed that He wanted to obey God and give us an example to follow. Even though He was not a sinner, Jesus was baptized like sinners are baptized and later He fulfilled God's plan to save us from the punishment of sin.)
- How would you explain to your friends or family the need to repent and be baptized? (Lead TeamKIDs to discuss why people need to repent and ask for forgiveness of sin.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Guide kids to turn to the backs of their activity pages to complete "Crack the Code."

## PRAY

Lead kids in a prayer. Thank God for Jesus' perfect obedience and for giving us an example of baptism. Ask God to help TeamKIDs trust in Jesus.

## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: SCAVENGER HUNT

*Provide: 8 craft sticks with the following references written on them: Matthew 3:13, Mark 1:9, John 1:32, Luke 3: 21-22, Mark 1:10-11, Matthew 3:16, Matthew 3:17, John 1:43*

- Guide TeamKIDs to form two groups. Tell the groups that you have hidden craft sticks around the room. Each group will need to work together to find the hidden craft sticks. Once they locate the sticks, they will need to find and read the verses written on the sticks in their Bibles.
- Offer help finding and reading verses as needed. Guide kids to discuss what they learned about Jesus' baptism in each of these verses. Encourage them to share any similarities or differences they noticed.
- Reiterate the truth that Jesus is God's Son and was baptized. Remind kids that this important event is recorded in all four Gospel books. Emphasize the truth that the Gospel books, although written to different groups of people, all tell us the same story of Jesus' life and ministry, the true events in His life, and His fulfillment as the promised King who would save us.

### OPTION 2: EMOJI FOUR CORNER BLITZ

*Provide: 4 signs with different emoji symbols drawn on them (happy, sad, excited, scared)*

Place the signs in four separate parts of the room.

- Draw attention to the four signs around the room. Choose one TeamKID to be "It." Explain that the group will choose an emoji sign to run to while "It" has her eyes closed. When "It" calls a symbol, everyone gathered around that sign must sit out the next round. Continue playing as time allows.
- Share how TeamKIDs are all very familiar with emojis—symbols that represent different emotions. Ask kids if they know that baptism is also a symbol. Explain that when a believer goes into the water, this action symbolizes the old version of him or her—the version that is spiritually dead because of sin—being buried. When the person is raised back out of the water, it represents the way Jesus brings us to life when we have faith in Him.

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: "World Map," (item 8), real or pretend microphone, "Gospel Fills the Airways" mission video*

- **Say:** Missionaries are obeying what the Bible says, teaching people about Jesus, and baptizing new believers. When missionaries want to tell a lot of people at one time about Jesus, or if they want to reach people they might not be able to meet with in person, they can use the radio. Let's find out how missionary Eric Maroney in Croatia is using a radio show to spread the news of Jesus.

Play the missions video. Afterwards, ask a volunteer to find Croatia in Europe on the "World Map" (item 8).

Challenge kids to form small groups and come up with a 1-minute radio show that shares about Jesus (or longer as time allows). They can share a Scripture passage, someone can tell why they choose to follow Jesus, or someone might tell a Bible story. Each group should select radio hosts who will do the speaking. After a short time of planning, invite the group hosts to come to the microphone to present their radio show.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: THE KINGDOM (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 8)

*Provide: Pool noodles (1 per kid)*

- Choose one player to be the king or queen. Provide the king with a pool noodle. As players run around the play area, the king must try and tag players by tapping them on their heads with the noodle. Players who are tapped become part of the king's kingdom and receive a pool noodle to tap other kids. Continue playing until only one player remains.
- Debrief: Remind kids that Jesus came with the message to repent and believe as He invites us to become a part of His kingdom (Mark 1:15). Only by faith in Jesus can we enter the kingdom of God.

### BALLOON TOSS (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 18)

*Provide: Five different colored balloons (one set per team), large box or basket, "Allergy Alert" (item 4)—latex allergy*

- Guide TeamKIDs to form equal teams of two or more. Provide each team with five different colored balloons and scatter the balloons around the play area. Place a large box or basket in the center of the playing area.
- Explain that each team will select a captain. The team will then circle up and decide secret hand motions to signal teammates to choose certain colors of balloons to place in the basket. (E.g.: red balloon/fire motion by wiggling fingers; blue balloon/wave motion, and so forth.) Once the motions are agreed upon by team members, the captains will stand near the balloon box or basket and other teammates will stand in a straight line facing their captain.
- On the leader's signal, captains will signal to teammates which balloon color to choose. One player from each team will run to that balloon and try to put it in the box without being tagged by another captain from an opposing team. If a player is tagged, the balloon is removed from the box. The team that gets all the colors in the box first, wins!
- Debrief: Discuss how this game required players to follow commands. Remind kids that Jesus always followed what His Father asked of Him, including being baptized.

### KINGDOM COME (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 19)

*No supplies needed.*

- Choose one TeamKID to be the king or queen. Ask all other players to line up at the opposite end of the room from the queen. Players will call out, "Is the kingdom near?" The queen will reply, "Yes, take \_\_ steps forward." Continue play until the queen decides to say, "The kingdom is here." When "the kingdom is here" is announced, the queen will turn around and try to tag players. Tagged players are frozen in place. The last player tagged becomes the new king or queen.
- Debrief: Discuss how Jesus' baptism was the start of His ministry where He began to speak publicly about the kingdom of God. Share that God wants people to follow and submit to His rule and authority because they love and trust Him. Jesus made it clear that He was bringing the kingdom of God and that all those who repent and believe are welcomed in.

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: "Questions with Kids" slide*

Display the "Questions with Kids" slide.

- **Ask:** What is a big event that has happened in your life?

Explain that choosing to follow Jesus is a big event in the life of every believer.

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today's study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today's activity page.

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, "Key Verse" slide*

Review today's Key Verse and invite TeamKIDS to say the verse aloud with you.

- **Say:** Jesus came to John to be baptized out of obedience to His Father so that He could fulfill all righteousness. Though He was sinless, Jesus humbly identified with the sinner's need to repent and be baptized. This event was an act of obedience and marked the start of Jesus' public ministry where He called people to repent because the kingdom of God was near. We can trust that if we follow Jesus in repentance and trust in Him, we can become citizens of His kingdom, too.

### PRAY

Lead a closing prayer or ask for a TeamKID to pray. Ask God to help each kid follow Him in obedience and seek first His kingdom.

### DISMISS

*Provide: "Unit 1 Parent Connections" (item 11)*

Explain to the group that you will announce something TeamKIDS have done or could do. (examples: if you've ever gotten a haircut, if you have ever jumped in rain puddles, if you can bake a cake, and so forth) TeamKIDS who identify with the statement will find another kid in the room who identifies with the statement and give them a high five, fist bump, or the like, and then return to their seats. End the game with the following prompt—if you have ever seen someone else be baptized.

Remind TeamKIDS that we obey God and are baptized after we have trusted in Jesus to save us. Jesus was baptized too, but Jesus never sinned like we do. Jesus is God the Son, and He became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.

As TeamKIDS are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and Parent Connection.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!

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If space allows, guide TeamKIDS to sit or stand in a circle.



## SESSION 6

# THE CALL

TODAY'S POINT: JESUS CALLED HIS DISCIPLES AND BEGAN TEACHING ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus Called His First Disciples  
(Luke 5:1-11)

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 11).

### KEY VERSE

Repent and believe the good news!  
Mark 1:15b

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 1 slide
- ☐ Session 6 slide
- ☐ Unit 1 Countdown Video

- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### DISCIPLE BINGO

- ☐ "Bingo Board" (item 19) (1 per TeamKID),
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Paper clips to act as bingo tokens (9 per child)

#### GOSPEL BOOK PACE

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ "Books of the Bible Poster" (item 9) (optional)

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Gospel Fills the Airwaves" missions video
- ☐ "Missions Story" (item 20)
- ☐ Phone

### GAMES

#### THE KINGDOM (PLAYBOOK, P 8)

- ☐ Pool noodles (1 per kid)

#### FISHERS OF MEN (PLAYBOOK, P 20)

- ☐ Blankets

#### FOLLOW ME (PLAYBOOK, P 21)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 1 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ "Unit 1 Parent Connections" (item 11)

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Earthly Ministry  
Jesus Calls the  
disciples

# LEADER DEVOTION

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## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Luke 5:1-11 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

The start of Jesus' public ministry began by calling people to join the kingdom of God. From the Sea of Galilee Jesus sought His first disciples—simple fishermen. The two pairs of brothers, Simon and Andrew and James and John (Matthew 4:18-20), witnessed the power of Jesus as He turned an unsuccessful night of fishing into a catch so large their nets began to tear and their boats began to sink. This miracle displayed the deity of Jesus as Simon recognized his sinfulness in contrast to Christ's holiness. As with all things Jesus did, He had a purpose for this encounter. Jesus was calling these fishermen to become fishers of men. He was inviting them (and eventually all twelve) to join Him in teaching people about God's kingdom. Jesus' calling on their lives was an opportunity for them to trust in Him for salvation and become a part of the life-transforming mission of sharing the gospel.

## CONSIDER

- When did you first understand God's invitation to trust in Him for salvation and join His kingdom?
- Simon Peter's encounter with Jesus caused him to recognize his sin in light of Jesus' holiness. How does Jesus' holiness produce both fearful reverence and comforting security for believers?
- In what ways are you seeking to join God in telling others about His kingdom?

## JESUS CALLED HIS FIRST DISCIPLES BASED ON LUKE 5:1-11

• A large crowd had gathered to hear Jesus teaching about God at the shores of the  
• Sea of Galilee. While He was there, Jesus saw two empty boats the fishermen had  
• left while they cleaned their nets. Jesus climbed into Simon's boat and asked to  
• be pushed a little off the shore. Then He sat down in the boat and started to teach  
• again to the crowds.

Read Luke 5:4-5, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses aloud.

• Simon was a fisherman who had just finished cleaning his fishing nets. Often,  
• when fishermen clean their nets, it means they are finished fishing for the day.  
• But Jesus commanded him to pull out again into the deep. Simon called Jesus,  
• "Master," which was a sign of respect. He also told Jesus that he and his friends  
• had worked hard all night and caught nothing, but he still chose to follow Jesus'  
• command and let down their nets.

• **Ask:** Do you think Simon Peter believed anything different would happen when he went out fishing  
• with Jesus? Explain your answer. (Simon did what Jesus asked, but also told Him that they had  
• already worked hard and hadn't been successful.)

Read Luke 5:6-8, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses aloud.

• **Ask:** What happened after Jesus told Simon to let down his nets into the water? (They caught so  
• many fish that the nets began to rip and the boats began to sink!)

• When Simon (also called Peter) saw the miracle of the fish, he fell down before  
• Jesus and said "Go away from me, because I'm a sinful man, Lord!" Seeing Jesus'  
• miracle, Simon immediately recognized that Jesus was Someone who was not like  
• other men. This wasn't just an important leader or teacher to respect. Simon knew  
• that this was something only God could do. When he encountered the power of  
• Jesus, Simon saw his own sinfulness next to God's holiness.

Read Luke 5:9-11, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses aloud.

• **Ask:** What was the response of those who witnessed this miracle? (They were amazed.)

• Everyone was amazed at what Jesus had done! Even James and John, Simon's  
• fishing partners, were in awe. Jesus told Simon not to be afraid and that from now  
• on he would be catching people.

• **Ask:** What do you think Jesus meant when He told Simon he would be catching people?

• **Say:** Jesus used the miracle of the fish to represent the impact Peter and others  
• would have as they followed after Him. Jesus called these first disciples to become  
• a part of telling others about the kingdom of God. And these men were obedient to  
• that call. They recognized Jesus' authority and immediately left everything—their  
• business, and even their families—and followed Jesus.



# Simon, Andrew, James, John

## GOING DEEPER

- **Say: Jesus called His disciples and began teaching about God's kingdom.** The disciples knew that there was something different about Jesus, something that was worth following. They recognized Jesus' authority, and they were willing to give up their jobs and leave their families to follow Him. Jesus is calling each of us to follow Him as well. Following Jesus is not always easy, but it is always worth it.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- **Who were the first disciples Jesus called?** (Simon, Andrew, James, and John; Matthew 4:18-22)
- **How did Jesus respond when Simon became afraid and recognized his sin?** (Jesus told him not to be afraid and then invited Simon to follow Him. Luke 5:10b-11)
- **How does your answer to the above question give you encouragement?** (We are all sinners, and God does not call us to be perfect before He can use us. Jesus calls us to follow Him even though we still sin. As disciples of Jesus, we can recognize our sin, repent, and continue following Jesus.)

### Older Kids

- **Who does Jesus call to follow Him?** (Everyone! We must repent and believe that Jesus is God the Son. We can follow Jesus by obeying Him and loving the people around us.)
- **When we choose to follow Jesus, we become His followers. This means that we choose to represent Jesus to the world. How does your life show that you are reflecting Jesus to people in your life?** (Answers will vary but may include: I pray with and for other people, I tell people about what Jesus is teaching me, I read my Bible and obey it, and so forth.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Guide kids to turn to the back of their activity pages to complete "Study a Gospel Book: Luke." TeamKIDs will solve the word search and use their answers to complete the questions.

## PRAY

Close the Bible study time with a prayer. Thank God that He sent Jesus and invites us all to follow Him. Ask God to help us be obedient to His call on our lives.

## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: DISCIPLE BINGO

*Provide: “Bingo Board” (item 19) (1 per TeamKID), markers, Bible, paper clips to act as bingo tokens (9 per child)*

- Provide each TeamKID with a “Bingo Board” (item 19), marker, and paperclips.
- Direct kids to use their Bibles (Matthew 4:18-20, 10:3) and what they learned from today’s Bible study to write in nine of the disciples’ names on their boards in whatever order they choose. Call out disciple names and direct kids to cover that name with a paper clip until a TeamKID gets three in a row.
- Remind TeamKIDs that these men were called by Jesus to tell others about the kingdom of God. These disciples obeyed Jesus and believed He was worth following.

### OPTION 2: GOSPEL BOOK PACE

*Provide: Bibles, 8–10 Bible references from the Gospels written on index cards, “Books of the Bible Poster” (item 9, optional)*

- Provide each TeamKID with a Bible. Tell TeamKIDs that you are going to call out a Bible reference from one of the four Gospel books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John). Explain that a Bible reference includes the book title, chapter, and verse number. Demonstrate if needed. Consider beginning with kids finding a Gospel book, then a Gospel book and chapter, and finally, a Gospel book, chapter, and verse. Encourage kids to use the Table of Contents in their Bibles if needed.
- Say: **You will use your Bibles to locate the Bible reference called.** As soon as you locate the reference, you can take one step toward the leader. The TeamKID who reaches the leader first wins.
- Explain how the Gospels are different accounts (viewpoints) of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. They each tell the same message, but in a slightly different way to help us see the whole picture. Remind TeamKIDs that the Gospel books are a great place to begin studying the Bible.

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: Cut apart and distribute 4 parts of “Missions Story” (item 20) to four TeamKIDs, phone*

- **Say:** God still calls people today to be His disciples and tell others about God’s kingdom. Missionaries say “yes” to God when He tells them to go and spread the gospel to people who don’t know Him. Let’s hear about people in another country who heard the good news of Jesus.

Ask the volunteers to read the missions story, following the numbers on their scripts.

Invite kids to make their own recordings of a message about Jesus to send to a friend. Some kids may have phones of their own. Allow them a short time to record a selfie video (or work with a friend) telling someone that Jesus loves them. For kids who do not have a phone, record their video on your own phone and make plans to send it to their parents or to one of your contacts. Thank kids for taking time to record a message about Jesus’ love.

Consider reviewing the missions video “Gospel Fills the Airways” from Session 5.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: THE KINGDOM (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 8)

*Provide: Pool noodles (1 per kid)*

- Choose one player to be the king or queen. Provide the king with a pool noodle. As players run around the play area, the king must try and tag players by tapping them on their heads with the noodle. Players who are tapped become part of the king's kingdom and receive a pool noodle to tap other kids. Continue playing until only one player remains.
- Debrief: Remind kids that Jesus came with the message to repent and believe as He invites us to become a part of His kingdom (Mark 1:15). Explain that the kingdom of God is God's rule and power over all He has made. God wants people to follow and submit to His rule and authority because they love and trust Him. Only by faith in Jesus can we enter the kingdom of God.

### FISHERS OF MEN (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 20)

*Provide: Blankets*

- Divide half the class into teams of three or four to act as fishermen. The other half of the class will be the fish. The fishermen will use a blanket (fishing net) to try and catch the fish. If the fish get "caught" in the blanket (touched by it), they become fishermen.
- Debrief: Remind TeamKIDs that when we decide to follow Jesus we are called to go and tell others the good news of the gospel—that everyone who believes and trusts in Jesus can be part of God's kingdom.

### FOLLOW ME (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 21)

*No supplies needed.*

- Choose a TeamKID to be the leader in the front. The rest are going to follow behind the first. The person at the front can choose any movement she likes, and the others will follow. Switch up the leader and play again.
- Debrief: Discuss how disciples follow Jesus and want to imitate Jesus (become like Him). When we follow Jesus, we not only want to share about Him with others, but we want our lives to reflect Jesus' character and example of how to treat others and share God's truth with them in love and respect.

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: “Questions with Kids” slide*

Display the “Questions with Kids” slide.

- **Ask:** Have you ever answered Jesus’ call on your life to believe and follow Him?
- **Say:** God is calling everyone to follow Jesus, but we have to choose to be obedient to that call.
- Think about how you can choose to follow Jesus in all areas of your life. The more we spend time with Jesus in His Word and get to know Him, the better equipped we will be to join Him in the call to make disciples.

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today’s study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have.

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, “Key Verse” slide*

Review the Key Verse (Mark 1:15) and encourage TeamKIDs to repeat the verse after you. Allow any TeamKID who volunteers to say the verse from memory and explain what it means.

### PRAY

Pray over TeamKIDs and ask God to help them obey His call to follow Him in every part of their lives.

### DISMISS

*Provide: “Unit 1 Parent Connections” (item 11)*

Ask TeamKIDs to sit or stand in a circle and choose one child to start.

Lead TeamKIDs to go around the circle and say a name of a disciple, without repeating a name already said. Offer help if needed.

Twelve Disciples of Jesus: Simon Peter, Andrew, James (the son of Zebedee), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (the son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot.

Remind TeamKIDs that Jesus chose people, like Simon Peter, to trust in Him, follow after Him, and join Him in sharing the good news about God and His kingdom. Help TeamKIDs to know that following Jesus means we trust in Him for forgiveness and that He helps us to become like Him.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and a Parent Connection.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!



## SESSION 7

# THE MINISTRY BEGINS

TODAY'S POINT: JESUS TAUGHT THE PEOPLE WITH AUTHORITY BECAUSE HE IS GOD THE SON.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus Began His Ministry (Luke 4:14-30, Mark 1:35-38)

### KEY VERSE

Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 11).

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 1 slide
- ☐ Session 7 slide
- ☐ Unit 1 Countdown Video

- ☐ "Can You See It" (item 21) or "Can You See It?" slides
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### UNROLL THE SCROLL

- ☐ "The Gospel: God's Plan for Me" (item 10)
- ☐ Wrapping paper (1 roll per team)
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ "TeamKID Gospel Presentation" video (optional)

#### COIN TOSS

- ☐ Coins
- ☐ 6 index cards per team

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Bibles and Coffee" missions video
- ☐ "World Map" (item 8)
- ☐ Dry erase board and marker or poster board and marker

### GAMES

#### BUTTERFLY RELAY (PLAYBOOK, P 9)

- ☐ Index cards

#### MIRACLE MAKER (PLAYBOOK, P 22)

- ☐ Ball

#### BIBLE BOOK SPINNER (PLAYBOOK, P 23)

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ "Bible Book Spinner" (item 22)

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 1 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ Dry erase marker
- ☐ Dry erase board
- ☐ "Unit 1 Parent Connections" (item 11)

# LEADER DEVOTION

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## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Luke 4:14-30 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

Jesus came to preach the good news that was prophesied in Isaiah and to proclaim freedom from the slavery of sin. He had already begun publicly healing people and performing miracles—signs that pointed to His divinity and authority as God’s Son. And when He began to read from the scroll of Isaiah in His hometown of Nazareth, the people were amazed at first. Yet, they could not get past knowing that Jesus was saying these marvelous words and was also the son of Joseph.

How could Jesus declare that the prophet Isaiah was speaking about Him? Knowing the hearts of the people, Jesus unveiled their unbelief. While they wanted the signs and miracles, they did not believe in Jesus. Like the prophets of old, they rejected the Savior from their hometown of Nazareth. And so, Jesus declares that the good news of salvation is not just for the Jew, but for the Gentile as well. The people’s unbelief exposed itself in anger and rage as they tried to hurl Jesus over a cliff. Still, God’s firm providence kept Jesus safe until His time came to complete God’s mission.

## CONSIDER

- How is Jesus the fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1-2?
- In what ways do you demand signs and seek things from God rather than being satisfied with Jesus?

## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: I CAN SEE IT (5–10 MINUTES)

*Provide: “Can You See It” (item 21)—post the zoomed in versions of the pictures around the room, blank pieces of paper taped next to “Can You See It” images, markers*

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video to get started.

Point out the “Can You See It” (item 21) images posted around the room. Instruct TeamKIDs to travel to each image and write down a guess of what they think the image might be on the blank paper next to each image. Once everyone has made a guess, gather the group together. Read aloud the group’s guesses and then reveal the correct answer and corresponding image.

- **Say:** You all did a great job guessing what the image was when you could only see a small part of it. What do you think happens when we can’t always see the whole picture of what God is doing in our lives? (Answers may include: we get confused, we ask someone for help, we don’t trust what is true, we doubt, and so forth.)
- We don’t have unlimited knowledge and power, so we don’t always understand the full picture of what God is doing in our lives. But God has divine authority. This means He always sees the full picture and is working in ways to bring His bigger plan to completion.

### BIBLE STUDY: JESUS BEGAN HIS MINISTRY (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 17 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

- **Say:** We have been studying about the arrival of the Promised One—King Jesus and God’s plan for His ministry on earth. Jesus arrived on earth as a baby, just as God promised. He was baptized, and God said that Jesus is His Son. This means that Jesus has divine authority just like God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. After Jesus was baptized, He called His first disciples (followers) to follow after Him and tell others about the good news of God’s kingdom.

Leader  
Tip: Consider  
marking Bible  
passages for kids to  
read during Bible  
study. Utilize slides  
as needed.

**DEFINE IT: DIVINE AUTHORITY**—God’s rightful exercise of power over everything

**DEFINE IT: DEITY**—what it means to be God

- **Say:** Up until this time, most people didn’t see the full picture. They didn’t understand that Jesus was God the Son and that He had come to fulfill God’s plan and rescue sinners. The time had come for Jesus to publicly reveal who He is and why He had come. By teaching God’s Word and performing signs and miracles, Jesus helped people to see that He is God the Son who had come to offer salvation. Jesus wanted to open the people’s eyes and hearts to see that only He could save them from their sins. Let’s open our Bibles to Luke 4 and learn more about Jesus’ divine authority as He began His ministry.

## JESUS BEGAN HIS MINISTRY BASED ON MARK 1:35-38; LUKE 4:14-30,

- Jesus had found a place to be alone so He could pray. Then Simon and the other disciples went looking for Him. When they found Jesus, they told Him that everyone had been looking for Him.
- Jesus told them, “Let’s go on to the neighboring villages so that I may preach there too. This is why I have come” (Mark 1:38).
- Jesus traveled to many places to heal people who were sick, to cast out unclean spirits, and to teach in the synagogue. (Mark 1:29-34, Matthew 4:23-25) Now, Jesus had come back to His hometown of Nazareth. It was the Sabbath and as usual Jesus went to the synagogue . He stood up to read from God’s Word.

Read Luke 4:14-22.

- **Ask:** What did the Spirit of the Lord anoint Jesus to do? (preach good news to the poor, proclaim release to captives, give sight to the blind, bring justice to the oppressed, and proclaim that the time of God’s grace for those who would repent and believe was here)
- After Jesus read from the Isaiah scroll, He said that this Scripture was now fulfilled. All of the promises made by God to the prophet Isaiah had now come true in Jesus! Jesus’ ministry in Galilee demonstrated that the Spirit of the Lord was on Him. He came to preach the good news of salvation and God’s kingdom to the poor, give sight to the blind, and release people who are held captive by sin to live for Jesus.
- As the Messiah, Jesus is the rightful King over everything. But here, the anointing of the Spirit of God is not talking about the anointing of a king, but the anointing of a prophet—one who came to preach the good news of the gospel. The people did not believe or understand what Jesus was saying. While they were amazed at His teaching, they only saw Him as the son of Joseph. They did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God.

Read Luke 4:23-24.

- **Ask:** What did the people hear about that took place in Capernaum? (All of the miracles Jesus had performed)
- Jesus had performed many healings and wonderful signs in the town of Capernaum, and the people wanted Jesus to do the same in Nazareth. Jesus knew the people only wanted to see the miracles and signs He did. They were not interested in believing that He is the Messiah or following Him.
- Jesus then went on to teach about how He had not come only to bring salvation to the Jews. Jesus had come to preach the good news of the gospel for all people. He told stories of how in the past God’s healing had come to people who were not from Israel, but foreign nations. He taught of a widow who experienced God’s mercy when there was a famine in the land. God performed a miracle and she did not run out of food. Also, a man named Naaman was healed by God from leprosy. Jesus was teaching that the gospel is for everyone.

Read Luke 4:28-30, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses.

- **Ask:** How did the people’s response change from Luke 4:22 to Luke 4:28? (The people went from listening and speaking well of Jesus to being enraged and driving him out of town.)
- The people became very angry with Jesus because they did not like what He was saying, but Jesus knew they would reject Him just like the prophets were rejected in their hometowns. They did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God who had come to bring salvation to all people.



## GOING DEEPER

**Say:** Jesus taught the people with authority because He is God the Son. Jesus' ministry included lots of miracles, but He wanted people to believe in Him and not just want to see the signs of His authority and deity through miracles. He came to bring freedom from sin and open people's eyes to their need of salvation through Him.

Jesus is God the Son, and He has all authority over everything. Not everyone who heard the good news of Jesus believed. Many chose to reject Him, but Jesus continued obeying God's plan to preach the good news to others until the time came for Him to provide freedom for people's sin.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- Where did Jesus teach in Nazareth and what was the name of the scroll He read from? (synagogue, Isaiah)
- The people of Nazareth had a hard time believing Jesus was the Son of God. Who did they say Jesus was? (the son of Joseph)

### Older Kids

- Why do you think Jesus said the people heard about what He did in Capernaum and that they wanted Him to do the same things in Nazareth? (The people wanted the signs and miracles. They did not want Jesus' message of salvation. Lead kids to discuss how sometimes we also struggle with only wanting what God can give us and not God Himself.)
- Jesus told the people that He had come to offer salvation to all people. How do we sometimes act like the people of Nazareth and fail to share the gospel with everyone, even those who are different from us? (Help TeamKIDs understand that sometimes we choose to only share the gospel with people who won't reject us, but God calls us to share the good news of Jesus with everyone.)
- What do the words of Isaiah teach you about Jesus? (Jesus is God the Son, and He came to obey the Father. The true promises that God gave were fulfilled in Jesus. This gives us hope to remember that God always keeps His promises. He is holy and trustworthy.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Guide kids to turn to the back of their activity pages to complete "Good News." Lead kids to identify the words used in Isaiah 61:1-2. Help TeamKIDs connect that these words were written hundreds of years before Jesus was born. Discuss how this prophecy came true in Jesus. Lead the group in deeper discussion about trusting God's promises and the authority of the Bible.

## PRAY

Lead TeamKIDs in prayer. Thank God for making His promise in Isaiah come true in Jesus. Ask God to help us love Jesus and believe that He is the Son of God.

## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: UNROLL THE SCROLL

*Provide: “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” (item 10), wrapping paper (one roll per team), Bibles, “TeamKID Gospel Presentation” video (optional)*

- Separate TeamKIDS into teams of four and give each team a roll of wrapping paper.
- Direct each team to unroll their “scroll” of paper as fast as they can. Once the scroll is completely unrolled, each team will find and read John 3:3. Then, TeamKIDS will proclaim the good news of Jesus’ salvation by shouting the verse aloud.
- Discuss how this verse teaches us that only those who trust in Jesus for salvation will enter into God’s kingdom.
- Display “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” poster (item 10), and share with kids how they can respond to the good news of Jesus by trusting in Him for salvation. Be available to discuss questions about salvation with TeamKIDS.

Consider showing the “TeamKID Gospel Presentation” video located in the downloadable content.

### OPTION 2: COIN TOSS

*Provide: Coins (1 per team), 6 index cards with words from the Key Verse written on one side (one set per team)*

- Form groups of three and give each group a set of index cards and coins.
- Lead groups to take their index cards and line them up in order of today’s Key Verse. Then, ask each group to turn their cards over so the blank sides face up.
- Direct each group to move their cards about two feet away from them and take turns flipping a penny so that it lands on the index cards. When the penny lands on a card, they can flip it over. The first group to flip all of its cards over wins.
- Read Luke 4:43-44 aloud together and discuss that Jesus had come to teach people about Himself so they could be saved.

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: “World Map” (item 8), dry erase board and marker or poster board and marker, “Bibles and Coffee” missions video*

- **Say:** Let’s travel to London, England, to meet Christians who are witnessing in Jesus’ name at a neighborhood coffee shop. Watch and listen for ways that the missionaries and local believers are using the coffee shop to share the gospel.

Ask a volunteer to find England on the “World Map” (item 8). Then, play the video.

After the video, choose volunteers to come up to the board one at a time and write down one way that Jesus’ love is being shared through the Kahaila Coffee Shop. (examples: friendship, community, game nights, relationships, hospitality, conversation, supper clubs, book clubs, quiz nights, worship.) After you complete the list, ask kids to discuss how different this coffee shop is from those they might have visited.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: BUTTERFLY RELAY (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 9)

*Provide: Index cards (write one word of the Key Verse on each card, one set per team)*

- Lead kids to form two teams. Each team will take turns sending a player to get a Bible verse index card of John 3:3. On the way down kids will crawl on their knees (like a caterpillar), grab the card, and fly (run) back to their teams.
- Debrief: Remind kids that when we trust in Jesus for salvation, we are born again. Just like a caterpillar is transformed into a butterfly, so we are transformed into a new creation and able to enter the kingdom of God.

### MIRACLE MAKER (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 22)

*Provide: Ball*

- Line half of the players on one end of the playing area and the other half at the opposite end. Place a ball in the center of the play area. Assign a miracle Jesus performed to each player, repeating the miracles for the other team. Players will listen for when their miracle is called and try to run to the center, get the ball, and take it back to their team.
- Debrief: Discuss all the miracles Jesus performed and how they were a means for people to see that Jesus is the Son of God. The miracles were meant to point people to see Jesus' authority.

Miracle suggestions: healing a blind person, raising someone from the dead, feeding 5,000 people, calming a storm by speaking, healing someone who was sick, the great catch of fish, healing someone who couldn't speak, restoring function to someone's hand, causing a fig tree to immediately wither

### BIBLE BOOK SPINNER (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 23)

*Provide: Bibles, "Bible Book Spinner" (item 22)—print on cardstock and assemble with brad and paper clip. Assign a Bible book to each color.*

- Guide kids to form four to five teams. Provide each team with a Bible. Spin for a book of the Bible. The team to get to the Bible book first gets a point. The first to 10 points wins. After a few rounds, assign a new Bible book for each color. Consider writing Bible book names on white paper and taping them to the spinner. This way, multiple rounds can be played.
- Debrief: Discuss how Jesus knew the Word of God and taught from the Scriptures. Encourage kids to become familiar with their Bibles and spend time every day in God's Word.

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: “Questions with Kids” slide*

Display the “Questions with Kids” slide.

- **Ask:** Who are people in your life who have authority?

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today’s study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today’s activity page.

- **Say:** Jesus came teaching about salvation and the kingdom of God with all authority. He also demonstrated signs like healings and miracles to show people He is God the Son and has authority that comes from God. When we trust in Jesus, it is important that we understand in whom we are putting our faith. Jesus has all authority over everything. We may not always see the big picture, but we can trust in the One who does. Jesus sees and knows everything: the past, the present, and the future. We can trust that He is in control of all things, even when we don’t see the full picture of what He is doing or how He is working in our lives.

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, “Key Verse” slide*

Lead the group to say today’s Key Verse. Remind the group that Jesus came to bring good news about God and His kingdom. This good news is that we can have life with God forever when we trust in Him for salvation. Everyone who responds to this good news is welcomed into God’s kingdom.

### PRAY

Thank God for His Word and how we can know Jesus by reading the Bible. Ask God to help kids see and know Jesus through His Word.

### DISMISS

*Provide: “Unit 1 Parent Connections” (item 11), dry erase board, dry erase marker*

Lead TeamKIDs to form two teams. Allow teams to give themselves a team name.

Explain that each team will select one person to be their artist. The artist will have 60 seconds to draw something on the board related to what they have been learning at TeamKID. The others on the team will try to guess what the drawing is before it is completed. If they succeed, the team receives ten points.

After sixty seconds, allow the other team a turn. Select one TeamKID to keep score, and continue playing with different “artists” as time allows. Remind TeamKIDs that even when we can’t see the big picture of everything happening in our lives, we can trust that Jesus, who is God the Son and has divine authority, is always in control.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and a Parent Connection.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!



## SESSION 8

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

TODAY'S POINT: JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT HOW TO LIVE IN GOD'S KINGDOM.

### BIBLE STORY

The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)

### KEY VERSE

Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 11).

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 1 slide
- ☐ Session 8 slide
- ☐ Unit 1 Countdown Video

- ☐ "Groups of Five" (item 23)
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Pencils or pens
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### SPAGHETTI CHALLENGE

- ☐ 5 sets of dry spaghetti noodles broken into different lengths,
- ☐ Blindfolds (1 per pair of kids)

#### SOLID FOUNDATION

- ☐ Building blocks (enough for 3 groups)
- ☐ Piece of paper

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Lattes for Lottie" (item 24) (1 copy per TeamKID)
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Pencils

### GAMES

#### BUTTERFLY RELAY (PLAYBOOK, P 9)

- ☐ Index Cards

#### NARROW GATE (PLAYBOOK, P 24)

- ☐ Box large enough for kids to crawl through
- ☐ Index cards

#### ASK, SEARCH, KNOCK (PLAYBOOK, P 25)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 1 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ "The Gospel: God's Plan" slide
- ☐ "Unit 1 Parent Connections" (item 11)



# LEADER DEVOTION

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## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Matthew 5:17-20 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

One of the most well known and treasured sermons of Jesus is the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus thoughtfully teaches and walks through what is true about the kingdom of God, as well as how those who seek to be in God's kingdom strive to live. As we read through these verses, we come across a variety of topics, including the Beatitudes, loving our enemies, how we should pray, the cure for our anxieties, how to enter the kingdom of God, and more.

Everything that Jesus teaches is centered around the character of God and His holiness, which translates to how we should then live in light of His saving grace in our lives. Specifically, Jesus is not only the ideal teacher of the Law, but He Himself fulfilled the law. In every way we are to love God and love others, Jesus perfectly lived this out. He calls us to follow in His steps. While we will not live out the law perfectly, our faith in Christ imparts His perfect righteousness to us. Furthermore, we are able to live according to His commands because He empowers us to do so.

## CONSIDER

- What specific teachings of Jesus do you find difficult to obey and follow? How can you allow Jesus to help you become more like Him in this area?
- How are we able or not able to surpass the righteousness of the Pharisees?
- How do our lives show we are either following God's commands or not?

## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: CLUE DISCOVERY (5–10 MINUTES)

*Provide: “Groups of Five” (item 23) cut apart and hidden around the room; paper; pencils or pens*

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video to get started.

Explain that there are clues hidden around the room for TeamKIDs to find. Provide each TeamKID with a piece of paper. Guide kids to find the clues, write them on their papers, and then return the clues to their hidden positions. Once they have collected all of the clues, they can return to their seats and try to figure out what these clues have in common. (They are all groups of 5—5 basketball positions, 5 toes on a foot, 5 branches of the US military, 5 food groups, 5 senses, 5 vowels)

Discuss how these clues didn’t make sense on their own, but when TeamKIDs saw more and more clues, they began to connect how these clues fit together.

- **Say:** Did you know that there are some really cool clues that God left for us in our Bibles? The Bible is one big book with one story to tell—the story of God and His plan for redeeming and restoring people to a right relationship with Him. All throughout the Old Testament we read about clues of God’s promise to send the Messiah, Jesus. One clue is in Deuteronomy 18:18.

Read Deuteronomy 18:18

- **Say:** God told the Israelite people hundreds of years before Jesus was born that there would be another person, someone even more important than Moses, who would teach people about God’s commands. That person was Jesus. Jesus came to establish God’s kingdom, teach about God, and fulfill God’s plan to make a way for people to be citizens of God’s kingdom. God’s clues are so cool!

### BIBLE STUDY: THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 19 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

- **Say:** We know that the Gospel books teach us about Jesus’ life and ministry. The book of Matthew, written by Matthew (one of Jesus’ disciples), focuses on how Jesus is the Messiah, the coming King promised in the Old Testament. Something unique about the Book of Matthew is it gives us five big teachings of Jesus that talk about how to live in God’s kingdom. Many Bible teachers think that these five big teachings are supposed to remind us of the five books of the Old Testament written by the prophet Moses. Matthew wanted his readers to understand that Jesus is the true and better prophet that Moses talked about who would come. (See Deuteronomy 18:15-18.)

- Today we are going to study the first big teaching in the Book of Matthew. This passage is known as the Sermon on the Mount. One day Jesus went up on a mountain and began to teach about what it looks like to be His follower and live as a citizen of the kingdom of God. He taught about how people who have trusted in Him for salvation live in a way that follows the law of God and reflects Jesus. Let’s open our Bibles to Matthew 5–7 and read about some of what Jesus taught.

**DEFINE IT: CITIZEN**—a person who receives all the privileges of being part of a particular group, country, or nation

Today’s study will include TeamKIDs alternating reading Bible verses. Offer talking points throughout the readings. (Younger children may need help reading.) Utilize slides as needed.

## THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT BASED ON MATTHEW 5-7

Select eight TeamKIDs to read one verse each of Matthew 5:3-10.

• **Ask:** What do you notice about these promises? (These promises all give a blessing for people who are part of God's kingdom. Many of these statements are the opposite of what we would consider good things. Blessed are the poor, blessed are the ones who mourn, blessed are the merciful, the peacemakers, and the persecuted. Jesus' call to live in God's kingdom goes against what the world considers blessings—wealth and status, popularity, pride, standing out, and so forth.)

• Jesus came to follow God's plan and introduce people to the kingdom of God. This kingdom was not like earthly kingdoms filled with money or power. Jesus taught that the people who are born again into the kingdom of God have different values and live differently than those who do not belong to God's kingdom. He was helping people to understand that when we decide to ask Jesus to be our Savior and follow Him, our lives are now about how we can show that Jesus is better than anything. This means that we live as Jesus did and point others to follow Him.

Read Matthew 5:14-16 or ask a TeamKID to read these verses.

• Jesus taught that living as people who are part of God's kingdom means we live like bright lights shining in this dark world so that others will see the greatness of God. A disciple (follower) of Jesus doesn't hide the truth about God from others. Jesus taught that those who are part of the kingdom of God and follow after Jesus will live in such a way that other people see the hope of Jesus through their words and actions. We obey and follow Jesus' teachings because the love of Jesus changes our hearts and gives us the desire to want to live differently and tell others about Him.

Read Matthew 6:5-8.

• **Ask:** What did Jesus teach about prayer? (We are not to pray to be seen or admired by people. When we pray—publicly or privately—our prayer focuses on talking to and listening to God, not putting on a show to be seen and admired by others.)

• These verses are talking about prayer, but Jesus is teaching about something much bigger than just how we pray. Jesus taught that people who claim to love God but spend more time caring about what people think about them than spending time with God, are really just putting on a show. Living in God's kingdom is not for show. People who are truly following Jesus don't seek the praise of people. Instead, they seek to honor, obey, and follow God and His law.

Ask a TeamKID to read Matthew 7:24-27.

• Jesus taught that He came to fulfill the Law of God, which means that Jesus perfectly loved God and people. His Word (law) is forever and therefore we are always to obey it. While we cannot obey it perfectly like Jesus, we know that Jesus will help us to love God and others. The most important thing is that we trust in Jesus and live as people who are part of His kingdom.

## GOING DEEPER

- **Say: Jesus taught about how to live in God's kingdom.** Followers of Jesus are called citizens of God's kingdom. Someone who is a citizen of God's kingdom has trusted in Jesus for salvation and will one day receive all of the rights and privileges promised by God when Jesus' returns. We live with the hope because we know that Jesus will return and make all things new. While we wait, we want to live in obedience to God as we hear His words and do what He says. Obeying God's law out of love for God and others shows that we are His disciples and that we are living as citizens of God's kingdom.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- **What were some of the blessings God promised from the Beatitudes?** (Answers may include: they will be comforted, they will inherit the earth, they will be filled/satisfied, they will be shown mercy, and so forth.)
- **What reward did the religious leaders want?** (to be seen and praised by other people)
- **Jesus said that everyone who heard His words and acted on them would be like what kind of person?** (a wise man who built his house on the rock)

### Older Kids

- **What is the kingdom of God?** (The kingdom of God is God's rule and reign over everything. Jesus came to establish God's kingdom on earth by dying on the cross and coming back to life—making a way for us to be part of His kingdom. One day, Jesus will come back and fully restore and reign over God's kingdom on earth.)
- **How are we called to live as citizens of God's kingdom?** (We are called to live right now as people who believe Jesus is King and will return to establish His kingdom. We follow God's commands in the Bible out of our love for God, not because we think we have to obey God to earn His love or forgiveness.)
- **What was the difference between the wise and foolish men in Matthew 7:24-27?** (The wise man was like someone who listened to Jesus' words and acted on them. The foolish man was like someone who heard, but did not obey, what Jesus said.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Guide kids to turn to the back of their activity pages to complete "Beatitudes" and match each Beatitude to its promise.

## PRAY

Lead the children in a prayer. Thank Jesus for teaching us about how to live as citizens of God's kingdom. Thank God that Jesus perfectly fulfilled the law and helps us to obey Him and show others how they can be part of God's kingdom, too.

## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: SPAGHETTI CHALLENGE

*Provide: 5 pieces of dry spaghetti noodles broken into different lengths (1 set per pair), blindfolds (1 per child)*

- Pair up TeamKIDs and provide each pair with a set of spaghetti noodles. Explain that one partner will be blindfolded and will have 30 seconds to line up the noodles from longest to shortest. Switch, allowing the other partner to be blindfolded. Encourage TeamKIDs to help one another complete the challenge.
- Lead pairs to do the activity again, but this time with no blindfold.
- Discuss how being able to see made the activity so much easier. Lead a discussion on how God has given us the Bible to help us know (see) Him and learn about why Jesus came for us.

### OPTION 2: SOLID FOUNDATION

*Provide: Building blocks (or boxes or anything that can be stacked to make a house) piece of paper*

- Lead TeamKIDs to form three groups and provide each group with building blocks.
- Ask each group to use the blocks to make a house (structure). Assign one group a table on which to build. Assign another group the floor, and the final group a piece of paper. Group three can build their house on the floor or a chair, and make sure the paper is on the bottom before building.
- Allow groups to inspect each others' homes. Discuss which house the groups think is the strongest. Shake the table to see if the house falls. Pull the sheet of paper out from under the house built on the sheet of paper. Use your foot to gently knock over the house built on the floor.
- Ask TeamKIDs how the structures could have been more solid. Share that the stronger the foundation of the house, the stronger the house would be. Remind kids that Jesus is the foundation of our faith. The more we know about Him, the better prepared we will be for living out our faith.

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: "Lattes for Lottie" (item 24) (one copy per TeamKID), paper, pencils*

- **Say:** Let's hear how a church in Kentucky used coffee to support missions through an offering called the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering."

Distribute the story and ask for volunteers to read it aloud while others follow along. If your church gives to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®, remind kids of your church's participation. If your kids take up another offering for international missions, explain it to your group.

- **Say:** When we give money to missions, we are helping more people to hear the gospel and to become part of the kingdom of God.

Brainstorm with the group how they might raise money for missions. Encourage them to think through details like: What and where would it be? When would it be held? How many people would you need to help? What kinds of supplies would you need? Collect their ideas and allow time in the future to make plans to implement their missions project idea.



## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: BUTTERFLY RELAY (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 9)

*Provide: Index cards (write one word of the Key Verse on each card, one set per team)*

- Lead players to form two teams. Each team will take turns sending a kid to get a Bible verse index card of John 3:3. On the way down kids will crawl on their knees (like a caterpillar), grab the card, and fly (run) back to their teams.
- Debrief: Remind kids that when we trust in Jesus for salvation, we are born again. Just like a caterpillar is transformed into a butterfly, so are we transformed into a new creation and able to enter the kingdom of God.

### NARROW GATE (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 24)

*Provide: Box large enough for kids to crawl through, 9 index cards with one word of “Jesus taught about how to live in God’s kingdom” written on each card (1 set per team)*

- Form teams of six players. Each player will relay race down the room, crawl through the narrow gate (box), pick up an index card, and run back to her team. The first team to solve the messages wins.
- Debrief: Read Matthew 7:13-14. Explain that this message was part of Jesus’ teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. Explain how Jesus taught that the path to the kingdom of God is like entering a narrow gate. Many will want to live their own way. But we are called to do the more difficult thing and follow the law Jesus taught and live for Him so we can shine as lights in this world.

### ASK, SEARCH, KNOCK (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 25)

*No supplies needed.*

- Pair up TeamKIDs and go over the hand motions for the game listed in the TeamKID Playbook. Tell kids that ask beats search, search beats knock, and knock beats ask. Pairs will stand back to back, count to three, turn around, and show their hand motions. Best of three wins. Allow kids to switch partners and play again.
- Debrief: Read Matthew 7:7-8. Discuss how Jesus taught that when we ask, seek, and knock, God is generous to His children. He gives us good gifts and we should do the same for others. As we do, we are following His law and helping others to see what it means to live in the kingdom of God.

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: “Questions with Kids” slide*

Display the “Questions with Kids” slide.

- **Ask:** What do you think God’s kingdom will be like when Jesus comes back one day?

Remind TeamKIDs that everyone who trusts in Jesus for salvation is called a citizen of heaven. Someone who is a citizen of God’s kingdom has trusted in Jesus for salvation and will one day receive all of the rights and privileges promised by God when Jesus returns.

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today’s study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today’s activity page.

- **Say:** Jesus taught about how to live in God’s kingdom so we could know what it means to live for God. We can be light to a dark world when we obey His Word and show others how living for Jesus is so much better. Think about what you have learned about Jesus and how you can obey God’s Word and point others to be part of His kingdom by responding to the good news of the gospel of Jesus.

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, “Key Verse” slide, “The Gospel: God’s Plan” slide*

Read today’s Key Verse with TeamKIDs. Ask a TeamKID to explain what being born again means. Share The Gospel: God’s Plan with kids and encourage them to consider who they know that needs to respond to the good news of Jesus.

### PRAY

Pray over TeamKIDs. Thank God for providing Jesus so we can have a relationship with Him when we respond to the good news of the gospel.

### DISMISS

*Provide: “Unit 1 Parent Connections” (item 11)*

Group TeamKIDs into two smaller teams. Guide each team to stand on a different side of the room. On the command, “switch it,” players should quickly, but carefully, speed walk to the opposite side of the room. The first team to successfully get all of its members to the opposite side of the space scores one point. Play several rounds. The team with the most points wins.

Remind TeamKIDs that Jesus died and rose again so that we could live through Him. He switched places with us. We don’t have to be separated from God because of our sin. Jesus came to forgive us of our sin and make a way for us to have a right relationship with God.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and a Parent Connection.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!

## SESSION 9

# THE WAY TO THE KINGDOM

TODAY'S POINT: JESUS TAUGHT THAT EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WOULD HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3:1-21)

### KEY VERSE

Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 11).

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 1 slide
- ☐ Session 9 slide
- ☐ Unit 1 Countdown Video

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)
- ☐ "The Gospel: God's Plan for Me" poster (item 10) or slide

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### VERSE RELAY

- ☐ Construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Tape

#### MAKE A CHANGE

- ☐ 2 jackets
- ☐ 2 sets of gloves
- ☐ 2 belts

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Williams Family Photo" (item 25)
- ☐ "Interview with Bobby Williams" (item 26)

### GAMES

#### BUTTERFLY RELAY (PLAYBOOK, P 9)

- ☐ Index cards

#### CRISS CROSS (PLAYBOOK, P 26)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

#### QUESTION TAG (PLAYBOOK, P 27)

- ☐ Sticky Notes (1 per player)

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 1 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ "Unit 1 Parent Connections" (item 11)

# LEADER DEVOTION

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## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read John 3:1-21 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

During the night, a Pharisee named Nicodemus came to see Jesus. Nicodemus saw the signs Jesus performed. He knew those signs must be from God, and he wanted to know more about who Jesus was and who He claimed to be. Jesus' response to Nicodemus was not to give an answer to his immediate comment (these signs are from God), but to give an answer to the more pressing matter, how Nicodemus and others could be part of the kingdom of God.

Jesus explained that only someone who is born again—who trusts and surrenders to God the Son—can be part of God's kingdom. Jesus connected His mission to Numbers 21:4-9. Just like a snake was lifted up on a pole and the people who looked upon it were healed, so too would Jesus be lifted up on a cross, and everyone who looks to Him will be saved.

In this session, make additional space to explain the good news of the gospel message to TeamKIDs. Help them connect the great exchange that happened when Jesus took the punishment for our sin and gave us His perfect righteousness instead. Lead kids to understand that, like Nicodemus, we cannot simply hear this message. We must believe and respond to it. Jesus' encounter with Nicodemus helps us to understand that we cannot be saved unless we believe that faith in Jesus is the only way to enter the kingdom of God.

## CONSIDER

- As a believer, are there times when you struggle trying to earn God's approval instead of resting in the grace already given by Jesus? Explain your answer.
- Think about when you responded to the good news of the gospel. Write a short summary of your salvation story below.



## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: WOW! WHAT A GROUP (5–10 MINUTES)

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video to get started.

Explain that in this activity, TeamKIDs will listen for a number to be called out. When they hear the number called, they will have ten seconds to find and form a group with that number of kids. When they form their group, they are to call out, “Wow! What a group!” Anyone who does not have a group of the correct amount must run around the room quacking like a duck until the next round.

Play several rounds, calling out various numbers and inviting TeamKIDs to join in the game as they arrive.

**Say:** Great job at finding different groups! Have you ever belonged to a particular group? Maybe it was a sports group, or drama club, or a group of friends. We all like to belong and be part of a group. As we participate in different groups, it is important for us to remember that those groups don't define who we are or determine our identity. In today's Bible study, we are going to learn about a man named Nicodemus. Nicodemus belonged to a certain group of people, called the Pharisees. This group was known for being very religious and thinking they had all the answers about the Bible. Nicodemus found out that just because he belonged to this group didn't mean that he had all of the right answers.

### BIBLE STUDY: JESUS AND NICODEMUS (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 21 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

**Say:** We've been learning about the life and ministry of Jesus through four Bible books. Can anyone remember what those books are called? (The Gospels) Exactly! The Gospel books in the Bible—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—all teach us about who Jesus is and why He came. Jesus came to fulfill His Father's plan. He taught people about God's kingdom while He was on earth and how people could be part of God's kingdom. Then, He took the punishment for our sin so that we can be part of God's kingdom when we respond to the good news.

Today, we are going to study about a man named Nicodemus from the Gospel of John. Nicodemus was a Pharisee. He was part of a group of religious leaders who tried to keep the law of God perfectly. But Jesus knew that just being kind and doing good things cannot save anyone. Nicodemus came to Jesus with questions, and Jesus taught Nicodemus that to enter the kingdom of God and have eternal life meant he needed to be born again. This is a confusing term, but we are going to learn more about what it means in today's Bible study. Let's open our Bibles to John 3 and learn more about Nicodemus' story.

**DEFINE IT: ETERNAL LIFE**—life forever with God

Leader  
Tip: Consider  
marking Bible  
passages for kids to  
read during Bible  
study. Utilize slides  
as needed.



## JESUS AND NICODEMUS

### BASED ON JOHN 3:1-21

- One night a Pharisee named Nicodemus came to Jesus. Nicodemus had heard about the signs Jesus had done, and he told Jesus that no one could perform these signs unless that person was from God. Jesus wanted to help Nicodemus understand that the signs He did pointed to something greater—that Jesus was the Son of God who came so that we could experience eternal life. Let's read about Jesus' response to Nicodemus.

Read John 3:3-4, or ask a TeamKID to read these verses.

- Ask:** What did Jesus say needs to happen before someone can enter the kingdom of God? (A person must be born again to enter the kingdom of God, John 3:3)

Read John 3:5-8.

- Being born again may sound like very strange language to us. It was strange to Nicodemus, too. Jesus taught that being born again is not something that we can do physically. We cannot become babies again. Rather, we are reborn spiritually. This happens when God's Spirit lives inside us and makes us new. Nicodemus had a hard time understanding Jesus' teachings even though he was a teacher of God's Word. Jesus asked Nicodemus how he could believe in heavenly things if he didn't even understand earthly things.

Read John 3:14-17, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses.

- Jesus used a story from the Old Testament to help Nicodemus understand. (See Numbers 21:4-9.) He explained that Moses lifted up a snake on a pole in the wilderness and everyone who looked at the snake was saved from the poison of snake bites. In a similar way, God was going to allow Jesus to be lifted up on a cross to pay the punishment for sin. Everyone who trusts in Jesus and believes in Him will be saved from their sin.

- Ask:** Who will have eternal life? (Everyone who believes in Jesus will have eternal life.)

Read John 3:18-21.

- These verses that Jesus spoke teach us that anyone who believes in Jesus will have eternal life. This is the only way to be part of God's kingdom.

- Ask:** According to these verses, will everyone be part of God's kingdom? (No, only those who respond by faith in Jesus.)

- Every person can respond to God's gift of salvation, but only those who believe in Jesus and trust in Him will be saved. We are born again spiritually when we respond to the good news of the gospel and trust in Jesus by faith that He is God the Son.

## GOING DEEPER

- **Say:** Jesus taught that the way to the kingdom of God is through faith in Jesus. Everyone who repents and trusts in Jesus will receive forgiveness and eternal life. When we trust in Jesus to save us from our sin, we are born again and are part of God's kingdom.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- What did Nicodemus not understand about being born again? (He didn't understand that it is not a physical birth but a spiritual one.)
- What did Jesus mean when He said the Son of Man must be lifted up? (He meant that He would die on the cross and take the punishment for our sins.)
- How do we enter the kingdom of God? (We enter the kingdom of God when we respond to the good news of the gospel and trust in Jesus for salvation.)

### Older Kids

- What was God's plan for Jesus? (God planned for Jesus to die on the cross in our place and give us His perfect righteousness, so that we could have eternal life when we respond in repentance and faith.)
- Nicodemus had trouble understanding Jesus' teachings, even though he had studied the Scriptures. What things about God's Word are sometimes hard for you to understand? (Answers may vary. Lead TeamKIDs to understand that no one has all of the answers to everything, but God's Spirit helps us understand His Word so we can respond in faith and obey God's commands.)

## CONNECT

Provide: "The Gospel: God's Plan for Me" poster (item 10) or slide

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Guide kids to turn to the back of their activity pages to complete "Gospel Match" and match the correct icons from "The Gospel: God's Plan for Me" to the respective definitions.

Discuss how not everyone will be part of God's kingdom. Only those who respond to the gospel through faith in Jesus are saved. Walk through the gospel plan with kids and reassure TeamKIDs that you and other adults are available to talk to them if they have any questions about the gospel or how to put their faith in Jesus.

## PRAY

Lead kids in a prayer. Ask God to help show TeamKIDs when the right time is for them to respond to the good news of the gospel through repentance and faith in Jesus, if they have not already. Thank God for sending His Son so we could have eternal life. Ask Him to help believers continue to live for Him and follow Him.

Leader Tip:  
Explain that "look to Jesus" means to believe and trust in Him.

## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: VERSE RELAY

*Provide: Construction paper with phrases of John 3:16 written on each sheet (divide the verse evenly so that each kid in the group will have one piece of paper), Bibles, tape*

- Form two groups. Lead kids to find and read John 3:16. Guide them to tape their Bible verse phrases to the floor.
- Explain that at your signal, both teams will relay race to try and make their way through the Bible verse phrases. Runner one will find and touch the first phrase of the Bible verse and return to the “Start” line. Runner 2 will find and touch the first two phrases before returning to “Start.” Continue the pattern until the final runner tags every phrase of John 3:16 in order.
- Encourage kids to memorize this verse and to remember that it is only through faith in Jesus that we can be saved.

For an added challenge, play again with TeamKIDs moving to different motions: hopping on one foot, walking backwards, and so forth.

### OPTION 2: MAKE A CHANGE

*Provide: 2 jackets, 2 sets of gloves, 2 belts (1 set is given to each team)*

- Form two teams. If you have an odd number of kids, one team may need to have one child go twice. Line up half of each team at one end of the room and the other half of the team at the opposite end of the room.
- Explain that the first TeamKID will put on all the items and then run down to the other end of the room. She will then give the clothing items to the next TeamKID, and move to the end of the line. The second TeamKID will put on the items, run to the opposite side, and give items to the waiting TeamKID. Teams will race back and forth. The first team that completes the challenge, wins.
- Discuss how we sometimes try to change how we are on the outside. We may think that if we act a certain way or do good things, we can enter the kingdom of God. But it is only when we are reborn on the inside, by believing in Jesus, that we can enter the kingdom of God.

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: “Williams Family Photo” (item 25), “Interview with Bobby Williams” (item 26)—print two copies*

Display the Williams Family photo.

- **Say:** Missionaries all over the world are showing people the way to the kingdom of God. Let’s meet missionaries Bobby and LaKeisha Williams who are raising their family in Louisiana.

Show the family photo and read the caption. Then invite the two volunteers to act out the roles of host and Bobby Williams, using the script provided.

- **Say:** Did you hear how LaKeisha leads exercise classes at the church? Stand up and let’s do a few exercises together, like we are a class at Next Level Church. Even things like fitness classes can introduce people to Jesus and teach them how to live for Him. When you do exercises or play this week, remember to pray for the Williams family.

Invite kids to stand up and do some simple exercises in place. Ask for volunteers to call out an exercise (jumping jacks, knee raises, squats). Do sets of 5 repetitions.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: BUTTERFLY RELAY (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 9)

*Provide: Index cards (write one word of the Key Verse on each card, one set per team)*

- Guide kids to form two teams. Each team will take turns sending a kid to get a Bible verse index card of John 3:3. On the way down kids will crawl on their knees (like a caterpillar), grab the card, and fly (run) back to their teams.
- Debrief: Remind kids that when we trust in Jesus for salvation, we are born again. Just like a caterpillar is transformed into a butterfly, so are we transformed into a new creation and able to enter the kingdom of God.

### CRISS CROSS (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 26)

*No supplies needed.*

- Group players into four smaller teams. Guide each team to stand on opposite sides of the play area. On the command, “criss cross,” players should quickly, but carefully, run to the opposite side of the play area. The first team to successfully get all of its players to the opposite side of the space scores one point. Continue playing for several rounds. The team with the most points wins. Call out different methods that players should use to cross the space each round: running, crab walking, hopping, crawling, walking backwards, and so forth.
- Debrief: Ask kids to share what their destination was in this game. (to get everyone to the opposite side of the space.) Explain that in order for everyone to get to the opposite side, players didn’t just hear the leader’s command; they had to respond to it. Make the connection that hearing the good news of Jesus is good, but unless we respond in faith and act on what we hear by trusting in Jesus, we aren’t part of God’s kingdom. The way to the kingdom of God only comes through hearing and believing the good news of the gospel.

### QUESTION TAG (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 27)

*Provide: Sticky notes with question marks drawn on them (1 per TeamKID)*

- Designate a playing area with boundaries. Place a sticky note with a question mark on the back of each kid. Kids will try and collect as many sticky notes as they can while they also try not to let anyone get their sticky notes.
- Debrief: Encourage kids to remember that just like Nicodemus, we all have questions. No one understands everything because we are not all-knowing like God is. Just like Jesus welcomed Nicodemus’ questions in our story, God welcomes our questions, too. When we have questions about our faith or don’t understand something we read about in the Bible, we can pray and ask God to help us understand. We can also talk to other Christians and leaders who can help us understand. Jesus loves our questions!

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: "Questions with Kids" slide*

Display the "Questions with Kids" slide.

- **Ask:** What does it mean to respond to the gospel?

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today's study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today's activity page.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, "Key Verse" slide*

Read today's Key Verse and invite TeamKIDs to echo the verse.

- **Say:** Nicodemus was a man who wanted to learn more about who Jesus was and why He came.
- Jesus answered Nicodemus' questions and helped him understand that to enter the kingdom of God
- he must be born again. **Jesus taught that everyone who believes in Him would have eternal**
- **life.** We can be born again, too, when we believe in Jesus and look to Him to save us from our sin.

### PRAY

Thank God for giving His one and only Son so we can have eternal life. Ask God to help us trust in Jesus and to live for Him.

### DISMISS

*Provide: "Unit 1 Parent Connections" (item 11)*

Lead TeamKIDs to play "True or Untrue."

Invite a volunteer to come to the front of the room. Explain that this person will say three things, two of which are true and one that is untrue. The group must decide which statement is false. After several rounds, change the game and explain TeamKIDs must give two statements that are true from today's Bible study, and one that is false.

Example: Nicodemus came to Jesus at night, Jesus told Nicodemus that he needed to be born again, and Jesus talked about Joseph.

Remind TeamKIDs that Jesus came to make a way for us to have eternal life through Him and be part of God's kingdom.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and a Parent Connection.



# THE HEALER

**TODAY'S POINT: JESUS SHOWED HIS AUTHORITY AND POWER BY HEALING PEOPLE.**

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus Healed and Restored

(Matthew 8:1-17; Luke 4:38-44)

## KEY VERSE

It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners.

Mark 2:17b

## PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 27).

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 2 slide
- ☐ Session 10 slide
- ☐ Unit 2 Countdown Video

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### BALLOON PASS

- ☐ Inflated balloons (1 per TeamKID pair)
- ☐ Dry erase board
- ☐ Dry erase marker
- ☐ "Allergy Alert" (item 4)

#### POPSICLE VERSE RELAY

- ☐ Craft sticks
- ☐ Jars or small cups
- ☐ Bibles

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Intro to Amy Carmichael" missions video:
- ☐ "World Map" (item 8)
- ☐ "Houses" (item 28)

### GAMES

#### STEAL THE BACON (PLAYBOOK, P 29)

- ☐ Playground ball or other small item

#### ELECTRIC CURRENT (PLAYBOOK, P 32)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

#### P-O-W-E-R DODGE BALL (PLAYBOOK, P 33)

- ☐ Soft playground ball

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 2 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ Sticky notes
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Music (optional)
- ☐ "Unit 2 Parent Connections" (item 27)

## LEADER DEVOTION

### OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Matthew 8:1-3 from your Bible or Bible app.

### STUDY

A man with leprosy knelt at Jesus' feet. He was an outsider in his community and completely out of options. His only hope rested with the willingness of this rabbi to heal him. The leper had faith that Jesus could heal him, but was Jesus willing? Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. With a few simple words, the leprosy vanished. The Creator and Sustainer of the universe had done the seemingly impossible for someone the rest of the world had cast aside.

In this session you will show the kids several portraits of Jesus' miraculous healings. They will discover that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus, the Promised Messiah. It was through Jesus that the very fabric of the universe came into being. He has power over sickness and demonstrated that power again and again throughout his earthly ministry. He gave the gift of hope to the hopeless and He does the same for us today.

A common thread is woven between the men and women who came to Jesus for healing. They recognized that they were not in control over their lives. They had come to the end of themselves. Truly it's at the end of ourselves that we find the power of God most fully displayed. Jesus points us to our loving and generous Father who desires to heal us and redeem our brokenness. We can trust the truth that our Father loves us and we are safe with Him.

### CONSIDER

- How do you find hope in Jesus when your circumstances feel hopeless?
- In what area of your life do you need to let go of control and allow God to demonstrate His power?

## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: HUMAN ROCK PAPER SCISSORS (5–10 MINUTES)

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video.

Explain that the kids will play “Rock, Paper, Scissors”, but with a twist. Instead of using their hands they will use their whole bodies. Demonstrate the motions that kids will use. Rock: curl up into a ball; Paper: lay flat on the ground; Scissors: Hold your arms out straight like a giant pair of scissors. Instruct the kids to find a partner. Whoever wins two out of three rounds wins. The winners will then partner up and continue playing until one person is left as the winner. Invite the kids who are out to partner up with others to continue playing.

- **Say:** In this game the rules never change. Rock always beats scissors no matter what. Scissors always beats paper, and paper always beats rock. Each item has power over one of the others. In our story today we’re going to learn about a person who has power over everything! I bet you can guess who I’m talking about. That’s right, Jesus! We’ll look at several Bible stories that show us how Jesus showed His authority and power by healing people. Let’s get ready to hear more!

### BIBLE STUDY: JESUS HEALED AND RESTORED (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 23 in their books and follow along.

- **Say:** When we want to find out what’s happening in the world today we might watch an app or video. If we want to know the weather we can check the weather app or ask an artificial intelligence device. When we want to know who God is and what He is like, where do we turn? The Bible is true and it comes from God. We can trust and obey what it says. Today we’ll be reading from the book of Matthew and the book of Luke.

- **Ask:** Do you remember what the first few books of the New Testament are called? (the Gospels)

- **Say:** Great job. The Gospels include Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and they are the first four books of the New Testament. These Bible books teach us about Jesus’ life and ministry. The good news about Jesus is that He came to point people to God and show them how to live in God’s kingdom. One way Jesus did this was by performing miracles. Jesus’ miracles of healing were important because they showed people that Jesus had power and authority because He is God the Son.

**DEFINE IT: AUTHORITY**—the power to make decisions and enforce rules

**DEFINE IT: OMNIPOTENT**—all powerful; this is a characteristic that only describes God

- **Say:** Today, we are starting a new unit where we will look at the Gospels to learn all about the King’s power. Jesus is the King God promised, and His power during His life and ministry on earth point us to His ultimate mission—to make a way for people to have a relationship with God through faith in Jesus and to live in God’s kingdom.

- **Ask:** Can you think of ways that someone may feel powerless in a certain situation? How might God show His power in that circumstance? (Allow TeamKIDs to respond and discuss.)

- **Say:** Let’s open our Bibles and learn more about Jesus’ power and why it is important for us today.

Leader  
Tip: Consider marking Bible passages for kids to read during Bible study. Utilize slides as needed.

## JESUS HEALED AND RESTORED BASED ON MATTHEW 8:1-17; LUKE 4:38-44

Read Matthew 8:1-3, or ask a TeamKID to read this verse aloud.

• Leprosy was a word used for several different kinds of skin diseases during Bible times. It could be very contagious. People with leprosy were considered unclean and had to live separate from everyone else. It may have been really lonely for someone with this kind of disease, but here we read about a man who believed that Jesus had power over sickness, even leprosy.

• **Ask:** What did the man with leprosy say to Jesus? What does this teach us about what this man believed about Jesus? (“Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” [Matthew 8:2b]. He believed Jesus had power over sickness that no one else could cure.)

• This man believed that Jesus had the power to heal him, even though no one else in the world could cure this disease, and Jesus did! He reached out and touched the man and said, “I am willing. Be clean!” Remember, no one ever wanted to touch someone with leprosy because that would make the person unclean, but Jesus wasn’t afraid of touching this man. Instead of Jesus becoming unclean like the man, Jesus made the man clean and healed him of his leprosy. What a cool picture of Jesus’ power over sickness!

Read Matthew 8:5-13, or ask a TeamKID to read these verses aloud.

• This next account of Jesus’ miraculous power involved a centurion, also known as a Roman soldier. This man displayed incredible faith in Jesus’ power to heal. He pleaded with Jesus to heal his servant who was in terrible pain and agony.

• **Ask:** What clues in this true story tell us the centurion had bold faith in Jesus’ power? (He said he wasn’t worthy for Jesus to come to his home, but he believed if Jesus just spoke, his servant would be healed.)

• Jesus’ power over sickness wasn’t limited to the Jewish people. He wanted to display his power to everyone. Did you notice how Jesus healed the servant? Jesus wasn’t even near the man! All Jesus had to do was say the word, and the servant was healed from afar. Let’s read one more story of Jesus healing someone.

Read Luke 4:38-44, or ask a TeamKID to read these verses aloud.

• Once more, Jesus healed someone with a simple word. Jesus healed all sorts of people with various illnesses and injuries. As the news about His miraculous power spread, people from all over would come to Jesus, hoping to be healed. Many people tried to keep Jesus from leaving their area, but Jesus said He had a greater purpose.

• **Ask:** What was Jesus’ purpose according to Luke 4:43? (to proclaim the good news about the kingdom of God)

• Jesus came to fulfill God’s plan. His miraculous healings were meant to point people to the ultimate healing that comes through faith and forgiveness of sin.



## GOING DEEPER

- **Say:** Jesus went from town to town healing people and preaching about God's kingdom. The miraculous healings of Jesus demonstrated His power as the Messiah who came to fulfill God's plan and make a way for people to be forgiven of sins. Jesus is God the Son, and He is in control of everything! (See Colossians 1:15.) He has power over all creation, and Jesus showed His authority and power by healing people. Jesus is the King God promised to send, the Savior of the world. He performed miracles to show the people that He is God's Son so they would trust in Him.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- How did Jesus show His authority and power in today's Bible passages? (He healed people who were sick.)
- What methods did Jesus use to heal people in the Bible verses we read? (He spoke, and He touched some of them)
- Over what does Jesus have authority? (all things)

### Older Kids

- How does Jesus show His power and authority over our lives? (Answers will vary. Share that Jesus has power over creation, over sickness, over death, and over every part of our lives. Because He is all-powerful, we can trust Him in every part of our lives.)
- What does it mean that God is omnipotent? (God is all-powerful. Encourage TeamKIDs to discuss what it means for God to be all-powerful in their lives today.)
- Why did Jesus heal people? (Jesus healed people to show His power and authority over all things, including sickness and death, and to point people to ultimate healing through trusting in Jesus for salvation. Jesus' miraculous power helped people understand that Jesus is the King God promised to send. By trusting in Jesus through faith, people could be healed from sin and restored to a right relationship to God again.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Guide kids to turn to the back of their activity pages to complete "Maze of Healing". Kids will follow the maze and match verses in the Bible with each healing occurrence.

Discuss ways that people can use their positions of authority to help others. Explain that **Jesus showed His authority and power by healing people**. Jesus always uses His power for our good and His glory.

## PRAY

Thank God for displaying His power and authority over all creation through Jesus' miracles. Ask God to help us trust that Jesus is all powerful and trustworthy.



## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: BALLOON PASS

*Provide: Inflated balloons (1 per TeamKID pair), dry erase board, dry erase marker, “Allergy Alert” (item 4)—latex allergy*

- Write today’s Key Verse (Mark 2:17) on the board. Say the verse several times with kids. Instruct TeamKIDs to find a partner. Give each pair a balloon. Lead kids to tap the balloon back and forth while they alternate saying each word of the Key Verse.
- Share how this verse teaches us that Jesus’ power and healing is so much bigger than just physical healing. We are all in need of healing because we all sin and disobey God. Jesus came to heal us from our sin and restore us to a right relationship with God when we repent and trust in Him.

### OPTION 2: STICK VERSE RELAY

*Provide: Craft sticks (10 per group: write one reference on each stick, a set of each verse for each group—“Matthew 8:1-17”; “Mark 1:29-38”; “Luke 4:38-44”; “Luke 5:12-16”; “Luke 7:1-10”; “John 4:46-54”; “Isaiah 53:4”; “Isaiah 35:5”; “Isaiah 42:18”; “Isaiah 61:1”), jars or small cups, Bibles*

- Form two groups. Place a set of craft sticks at one end of the room and instruct kids to stand at the other end with a Bible for each group. Kids will walk relay-style to the jar, grab a stick and return to their group. Remind kids not to rush with sticks in their hands. They will work together to find the verse references, then drop the stick into their jar or cup. Award 5 points for each stick in the jar.
- Remind kids that even the Old Testament points us to Jesus. Jesus is the King that God promised to send, and His power over sickness points us to the even greater power He has to forgive sins.

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: “World Map” (item 8), “Houses” (item 28) (cut apart and post around room) “Intro to Amy Carmichael” missions video*

- **Say:** A long time ago, a missionary named Amy Carmichael saw many people who needed to be healed. Amy wanted the poor people around her to have their bodies healed, but also to be healed of their sin by trusting in Jesus as Savior. Let’s learn about this missionary.

Point to India on the “World Map” (item 8), then play the missions video.

Invite kids to walk around the room, look at each house picture, and then stand next to the one they would choose to live in. Ask why they would like to live in that house.

- **Say:** This might be surprising, but missionary Amy Carmichael chose to live in the worst neighborhoods and the poorest slums. She wanted to live closest to the people she was trying to help. She lived and started Bible studies in places where no one else even wanted to visit. God used Amy Carmichael in powerful ways. She saw many people turn to Jesus and be saved.

Ask kids if they would be willing to go where God wanted them to go. Explain that it’s OK if they don’t know.

- **Say:** As you grow and become closer to Jesus, you will want to obey Him and go where He wants you to go. You will be part of God’s mission wherever you live, work, and play.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: STEAL THE BACON (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 29)

*Provide: Playground ball or other small item*

- Lead TeamKIDS to form two teams and explain that each kid will race to the middle of the play area to try and steal the “bacon” when his number is called. The first person to steal the bacon must call out Today’s Point, **Jesus showed His authority and power by healing people**. If she says Today’s Point correctly her team gets a point. For an added challenge, call out several numbers at once. The team with the most points after a given amount of time wins.
- Debrief: Remind TeamKIDS that they heard several stories about Jesus healing people. These recorded events of Jesus’ miraculous power in the Bible help us know that Jesus is in control of everything! **Jesus showed His authority and power by healing people**. He has power in our lives, too.

### ELECTRIC CURRENT (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 32)

*No supplies needed.*

- Lead TeamKIDS to form two teams and line up facing each other, holding the wrists of the players beside them. All players will keep their eyes closed except the two players at the front of the lines. The leader will toss a coin. When the coin lands on heads the players in the front will squeeze the hand they’re holding and that person will then squeeze the next person’s hand. The squeeze or “current” will continue down the line. The team to get the current to the last player wins.
- Debrief: Remind the kids that in the stories we read today many people were coming to Jesus to be healed from their illnesses. In fact, Luke 4:42 says that the people came to Jesus and tried to persuade Him to stay with them longer. Jesus said, “It is necessary for me to proclaim the good news about the kingdom of God to other towns also, because I was sent for this purpose.” (Luke 4:43) Jesus came to tell others about the kingdom of God. He wanted many people to hear the good news, so He continually traveled from place to place. The gospel is something to be shared with everyone, so let’s keep the good news moving just like you kept the “current” moving in our game!

### P-O-W-E-R DODGE BALL (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 33)

*Provide: Soft playground ball*

- Choose one player to be “It” and give her the ball. She will toss the ball in the air and call on another player in the group. That player will run to the center to catch the ball while everyone else runs away from the center. When the player catches the ball, he will yell “STOP.” Everyone must freeze where they are. He will then take five steps towards someone spelling P-O-W-E-R with each step. He will then toss the ball to try to tag one of the other players. The “target” may not move his feet but can dodge the ball. If the “target” is hit, that player comes to the center to toss the ball in the air and call the next player. If the “target” dodges the ball, play continues.
- Debrief: Ask for players to share what they have learned about Jesus’ power. (Allow time for responses.) Say, “That’s great! We learned that Jesus showed His authority and power by healing people. He has power over all creation, including sickness and even death. Jesus always uses His power for our good and His glory.”

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: "Questions with Kids" slide*

Display the "Questions with Kids" slide.

- **Ask:** Can you think of ways that someone may feel powerless in a certain situation? How might God show His power in that circumstance?

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today's study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: "Key Verse" slide*

Read today's Key Verse with TeamKIDs. Invite a volunteer to explain the verse in her own words.

- **Say:** We know **Jesus showed His authority and power by healing people.** God promised to send the Messiah to take on the punishment for our sin. God fulfilled this promise in Jesus, in His perfect life, His death, and His resurrection. Isaiah 53:5 says that, "by His wounds we are healed." This means that Jesus' death on the cross made our salvation possible. Jesus showed His authority and power by healing people. His ultimate healing happens when we trust in Him for salvation, and He forgives us from our sins. This week we can respond to God with gratitude for what He has done for us, and we can share this very good news with our friends and families!

### PRAY

Invite one of the kids to pray if he would like, or the leader can pray. Thank God for giving us the gift of His Word. Ask Him to help us believe it and live our lives in response to the salvation that Jesus offers.

### DISMISS

*Provide: "Unit 2 Parent Connections" (item 27), strips of paper, pencils, music (optional)*

Pass out sticky notes and pencils to all the kids. Invite them to write one thing they learned from Bible study today. Encourage kids to crumple or fold their sticky notes and toss them to another TeamKID. Consider playing upbeat music while kids toss their papers. After a few seconds, encourage kids to find and read a different note than the one they wrote. If time allows, play again encouraging kids to find the notes they wrote.

Read through some of the notes with the whole group and celebrate what TeamKIDs are learning about Jesus. Invite the kids to ask any final questions about the Bible study or other activities from today's session.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and Parent Connection.

## SESSION 11

# THE CREATOR

**TODAY'S POINT: JESUS IS GOD THE SON AND HAS POWER OVER CREATION.**

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus Calmed the Storm (Mark 4:35-41)

### KEY VERSE

It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners.

Mark 2:17b

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 27).

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 2 slide
- ☐ Session 11 slide
- ☐ Unit 2 Countdown Video

- ☐ "In the Dark" cards (item 29) cut apart and ordered or "In the Dark" slides
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### FOLD AND FLY

- ☐ See "Airplane Instructions and Review" (item 61) for paper airplane instructions.
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Markers

#### NEW TESTAMENT LINEUP

- ☐ Craft sticks
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ "Books of the Bible Poster" (item 9, optional)

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Intro to Amy Carmichael" missions video
- ☐ "Amy Carmichael Photo" (item 30)
- ☐ "World Map" (item 8)
- ☐ Poster board
- ☐ Markers

### GAMES

#### STEAL THE BACON (PLAYBOOK, P 29)

- ☐ Playground ball or other small item

#### HUMAN BATTLESHIP (PLAYBOOK, P 34)

- ☐ String
- ☐ Two chairs
- ☐ Beach ball

#### WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE? (PLAYBOOK, P 35)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 2 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ Dry erase board
- ☐ Dry erase marker
- ☐ "Unit 2 Parent Connections" (item 27)

# LEADER DEVOTION

## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Mark 4:35-41 and Psalm 65:7 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

After another long day of teaching, Jesus got into a boat with His disciples and told them to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. A huge storm on the Sea of Galilee must have been frightening, and even more dangerous to navigate at night. The disciples were terrified as the waves crashed over their small boat. Notice that Mark records Jesus sleeping in the boat. This story (also found in Matthew and Luke) is the only instance recorded where Jesus was sleeping. The disciples awakened Jesus, not to ask for His help, but to rebuke Him—not fully understanding Jesus’ authority and power as God the Son. Jesus got up, rebuked the sea and the wind, and immediately nature obeyed. The disciples’ response was not one of relief and joy, but greater terror. The teaching of the Old Testament writings told of how only God can make the winds and sea obey Him, and yet Jesus did just that. (Psalm 65:7; 89:8-9)

This story forces us to come to grips with the fact that Jesus has authority and power over all creation because He is God. He was there at the creation of the world. (See John 1:1.) As you teach TeamKIDs, remind them that Jesus is our all-powerful King. He is in complete and full control of all things, and He alone is worthy of our supreme trust and faith.

## CONSIDER

- What area of your life feels out of control right now?
- How might you submit to God’s authority and find peace in knowing that He is in control?
- How does trusting that Jesus is the all-powerful King change your attitude about your current circumstances?



# LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

## OPENING ACTIVITY: IN THE DARK (5–10 MINUTES)

*Provide: “In the Dark” cards (item 29) cut apart and ordered*

Welcome TeamKIDS as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video to get started.

Gather TeamKIDS together and explain that you are going to show them a series of pictures. **Explain that each picture you reveal will give more and more detail about the image.**

Display the first picture (completely black image) and invite TeamKIDS to guess what it might be. Ask leading questions such as: Why can’t you see what this image is? What would help you see it better?

Display the second picture (slightly clearer image). Invite TeamKIDS to continue to guess what the image might be until you reveal the final image (people in a boat).

• **Say:** Great job, TeamKIDS. You figured it out!

• **Ask:** Did you ever get frustrated or confused as we looked at the different pictures? Did you ever want to give up and for me to just tell you the final picture?

• **Say:** Today, we are going to study a passage from the Bible that teaches us more about who Jesus is. We are going to discover that at this point in Jesus’ ministry, His chosen disciples (followers) didn’t fully see and understand who Jesus is. They were confused, like looking at a picture in the dark and not fully seeing what it is until it is revealed.

## BIBLE STUDY: JESUS CALMED THE STORM (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 25 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

• **Say:** We are going to open our Bibles and continue studying about the King’s power. The books of the Bible that we call the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—teach us about Jesus’ life and ministry. These books are not in our Bibles just because they give us facts about Jesus. They are in our Bibles to teach us about who Jesus is, why He came, and what that means for us today.

• Let’s turn in our Bibles to the book of Mark. Mark’s Gospel is the shortest Gospel book. **The purpose of Mark’s Gospel is to help people see that Jesus is the Son of God. In today’s passage, Jesus had just been teaching people about the kingdom of God. Yet many people, including Jesus’ own disciples, didn’t fully understand who Jesus is or why He came. As we read, we are going to learn about Jesus’ power over creation. Jesus’ display of power to the disciples is important because it helped them understand who Jesus is and to believe in Him through faith.**

**DEFINE IT: FAITH**—Trust in God; belief that what God has told a person about Himself and people in the Bible is true

Mark 4: 35-41

Consider marking Bible passages for kids to read during Bible study. Utilize slides as needed.

## JESUS CALMED THE STORM BASED ON MARK 4:35-41

11

Read **Mark 4:35-36**, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses.

- Jesus had been teaching people about God all day. When evening came, He told the
- disciples that they should all get in the boat and cross over to the other side of the
- Sea of Galilee.

Read **Mark 4:37-38**, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses aloud.

- Traveling across a sea, even for experienced fishermen, could be dangerous. But,
- traveling across a sea at night in a violent storm must have been terrifying.

- **Ask:** When the storm came and water began filling the boat, where was Jesus? (Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion.)

- Did you know that **this is the only recorded instance in all of the Gospel books where Jesus is said to be sleeping?** While the disciples were afraid of not making it through the storm, Jesus was asleep.

- **Ask:** What question did the disciples ask Jesus when they woke Him up? (“Teacher! Don’t you care that we’re going to die?”) What does this question teach us about the disciples? (Answers will vary but may include: they didn’t understand He was God, they were afraid, they didn’t believe that they would live through the storm, and so forth.)

- There are several important things happening in this question that we need to notice. **First, the disciples call Jesus “teacher.” Jesus was a great teacher, but He was much more than a teacher. Jesus is the Promised One that God sent for us. The disciples did not fully understand that Jesus is God the Son. This is important to keep in mind as we think about what the disciples did. They didn’t wake Jesus up to ask for His help. They woke Him up and rebuked or criticized Him, questioning if He even cared about them. Let’s read about how Jesus responded.**

Read **Mark 4:39-40**, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses aloud.

- Jesus was not surprised by the storm, nor was He afraid. **He spoke a few words, “Silence! Be still!”** and the wind and waves obeyed Him immediately. Can you imagine trying to tell the rain to stop falling? That would be ridiculous because we don’t have the power to stop the weather. **Only God is in control of the weather, and by calming the storm, Jesus** was showing that **He is God the Son and has power over creation.**

Read **Mark 4:41**, or invite a TeamKID to read this verse aloud.

- The disciples’ response to Jesus was not joy or gratitude, but an even greater fear than the fear they experienced in the storm. They began asking themselves who this teacher could be. **They understood that only God could control the wind and sea like Jesus had just commanded.** Jesus’ miracle of calming the raging storm helped His disciples see that He was more than a teacher. Jesus is God the Son and He has power over everything. Even creation listens and obeys His voice.

## GOING DEEPER

**Say:** Each of the miracles Jesus performed was meant to point to something even greater. When Jesus simply spoke and the wind and waves died down, He was showing that He **is God the Son and has power over creation**. There is nothing outside of God's control. He is more powerful than a raging storm. When everything feels scary and confusing or we can't see the big picture, we can remember that God is in control, even when we aren't. There will be times in your life when things are hard, scary, sad, or confusing, but you can always trust that God is with you. He will never ever leave you on your own, and He is worthy of your faith, hope, and trust.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- Why were the disciples afraid at first? (They were scared of the storm.)
- How did Jesus calm the storm? (He spoke and the wind and the waves stopped immediately.)
- How did the disciples respond to this miracle? (They were even more afraid of Jesus' power because He did something that could only be done through God's power.)

### Older Kids

- What does this miracle teach us about Jesus' power? (Jesus is God the Son and He has power over everything, including creation.)
- How do our lives change when we understand who Jesus is? (When we understand how powerful and holy Jesus is, and that He came to earth to take the punishment for our sin, we begin to understand how sinful we are and how much we need Him. We can respond to Jesus in faith by repenting (turning away) from our sin and committing (promising) to follow Him.)
- How does knowing God is in control help you trust Him when you feel scared, angry, sad, or confused? (Lead TeamKIDS to discuss how they can put their faith and trust in God, not just for salvation, but in every circumstance.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDS are together, consider forming two groups.

Guide kids to turn to the backs of their activity pages to complete "What'd He Say?" and solve the word puzzle.

**Say:** The disciples were terrified of the storm. They were afraid the boat was going to sink and they were all about to drown. They were completely helpless in that moment, and they turned to the only One who had any power to help them. When we go through hard times we can turn to Jesus. He doesn't promise to take away the hard situation, but He promises to be with us. We can endure difficult things because Jesus walks through them by our sides.

## PRAY

Lead kids in a prayer. Thank God for giving us His Word. Praise Him for His power over all creation and ask Him to help us in our times of need.

## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: FOLD AND FLY

*Provide: Do a web search prior to the session for ideas on how to fold paper airplanes. Print instructions as needed. Refer to “Airplane Instructions and Review” (item 61) for more ideas; paper, markers*

- Invite the kids to create a paper airplane. Provide some of the directions you found online, or allow kids to use their imaginations to create their own. Instruct the kids to write the Key Verse on their airplanes. Encourage older kids to find and read **Mark 2:17** in their Bibles. Invite the kids to stand along one wall. Say the verse together, then let the kids toss their airplanes to see whose goes the farthest.
- Explain that Jesus did many miracles during His ministry to display His power and help people understand He is the Messiah. He came to help us see the bigger picture: we are sinners and need forgiveness. He invites us to put our faith in Him!

### OPTION 2: NEW TESTAMENT LINEUP

*Provide: Craft sticks, markers, Bibles, “Books of the Bible” poster (item 9, optional)*

- Lead TeamKIDS to form groups of three to five kids. Give each group a set of craft sticks and markers. Instruct teams to write the names of the New Testament books on the sticks, then put them in the correct order. Encourage them to use their Bibles and table of contents to locate and write the New Testament books. Remind TeamKIDS that the Bible comes from God and every word of it is true, so we can trust what it says and obey it.

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: “Amy Carmichael Photo” (item 30), “World Map” (item 8), poster board, markers*

Show the Amy Carmichael photo.

- **Say:** Missionary Amy Carmichael was born in Ireland. She served as a missionary in Japan and then in India. She lived in India for 55 years, serving abandoned children in an orphanage and teaching them about Jesus. They called her ‘Amma,’ which means mother. Amy believed in the power of Jesus in the children’s lives. Jesus loved the children of India when Amy served there and He loves them today.

Consider reviewing the missions video “Intro to Amy Carmichael” from Session 10.

Ask a volunteer to help you find the countries of Ireland, Japan, and India on the “World Map” (item 8)—the countries where Amy Carmichael lived. At the top of pieces of poster board, write a few places where your group could minister to other children. (Children’s hospital, local park, family (homeless) shelter, food bank, event at your church.)

- **Say:** Amy Carmichael spent her whole life serving children around the world. She loved them, worked hard to provide for them, and most importantly, she taught them about Jesus. She started an orphanage in India to help children who had no home or who were being mistreated. How can we serve other kids around us?

Invite kids to walk around the room and list ideas under each heading. They might also draw a picture, illustrating a way to serve. (examples: “handing out water” under “Local Park” or draw a picture of a Bible storybook under “Children’s Hospital.”) Choose a project that your TeamKIDS can participate in with your church family.



## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: STEAL THE BACON (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 29)

*Provide: Playground ball or other small item*

- Lead TeamKIDS to form two teams and explain that each kid will race to the middle of the play area to try and steal the “bacon” when his number is called. The first person to steal the bacon must call out Today’s Point, **Jesus is God the Son and has power over creation**. If he says Today’s Point correctly his team gets a point. For an added challenge, call out several numbers at once. The team with the most points after a given amount of time wins.
- Debrief: In our Bible study the disciples were afraid that their boat was going to sink. Through their panic they turned to Jesus, who was the only One who could actually help them in their situation. Jesus didn’t panic because He is in control over all things. Jesus merely spoke and the wind and waves died down. Jesus showed His authority and power by calming the storm. He has power in our lives, too.

### HUMAN BATTLESHIP (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 34)

*Provide: String, two chairs, beach ball*

- Separate the play area into two sections using a string attached to two chairs. Form two teams and instruct the teams to lay down on their side of the play area. Give one kid a beach ball. The goal is to toss the ball over the string and hit another player or “sink the ship.” If the ball touches a kid they are out. Kids aren’t allowed to move to avoid being “sunk,” or they are out.
- Debrief: Ask a TeamKID to review today’s Bible study. Share how in today’s study the disciples were afraid that their boat was going to sink. Through their panic they turned to Jesus, the only One who could actually help them in their situation. Jesus didn’t panic because He is in control over all things. Jesus spoke and the wind and waves obeyed immediately. Remind TeamKIDS that **Jesus is God the Son and has power over creation**.

### WHO’S IN CHARGE HERE? (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 35)

*No supplies needed.*

- Guide the kids to stand in a circle. Choose one kid to be the guesser and have him leave the room for a moment while the leader is chosen. The leader will discreetly lead kids to mimic different motions, and the guesser’s job is to figure out which kid is the leader. When the guesser guesses correctly, the leader becomes the new guesser.
- Debrief: Help TeamKIDS connect that sometimes it’s fun to be in charge and have control over what the group does. But, there is only One person who has control over the whole universe—Jesus! Lead TeamKIDS to say Today’s Point: **Jesus is God the Son and has power over creation**.



## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

Provide: “Questions with Kids” slide

Display the “Questions with Kids” slide. Remind kids that Jesus is God the Son and is all-powerful. Even the wind and waves obey His voice.

- **Ask:** *When we get scared or afraid, what promises about God can we remember?*

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today’s study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have.

- **Say:** In our story we learned that **Jesus is God the Son and has power over creation.** Jesus only needed to speak, and the wind and waves obeyed Him. We know that God is in control of all things, including our lives. When we experience hard things we can trust that God is with us. He might not make the hard things stop, but we know that what is true about God is always true, even when life is difficult. As you go through your week, take time to pray to God. Ask Him to give you strength and remind you of His power when you feel confused, sad, or overwhelmed.

### KEY VERSE

Provide: “Key Verse” slide

Read today’s Key Verse aloud and invite a teamKID to explain the meaning of the verse in his own words. Share that Jesus came to bring us healing. Jesus demonstrated His power to heal sicknesses through miracles. These miracles point to an even bigger kind of healing—forgiveness of sin. Jesus came to fulfill God’s plan and heal us from sin and make a way for us to be forgiven when we trust in Jesus.

### PRAY

Invite a TeamKID to pray if he or she would like. Thank God for our time together today and praise Him for His power over all creation. Ask God to help us trust Him this week, especially as we go through hard things.

### DISMISS

Provide: “Unit 2 Parent Connections” (item 27), dry erase board and marker

Invite one TeamKID to the front and hand her the dry erase marker. Encourage this TeamKID to draw a simple picture that others can guess. Explain that she will draw a part of the picture, pause, and allow for guesses. Then she will continue drawing. The first TeamKID to correctly guess the picture gets to switch places and draw a new picture for TeamKIDs to guess.

Remind kids that even when we can’t see the full picture, God is always in control. He knows us fully and is in control of all circumstances. We can look to Him and trust Him, even when we don’t understand everything that is going on around us. He is worthy of our faith and trust no matter what.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and a Parent Connection.

## SESSION 12

# THE FORGIVER

TODAY'S POINT: JESUS CAME TO FORGIVE SINNERS AND SHOW PEOPLE THAT HE IS THE MESSIAH.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus Forgave Sin (Mark 2:1-17)

### KEY VERSE

It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick. I didn't come to call the righteous, but sinners.  
Mark 2:17b

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 27).

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

☐ Unit 2 slide

☐ Session 12 slide

☐ Unit 2 Countdown Video

☐ Bibles

☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### VERSE STRAW RELAY

- ☐ Small pieces of paper with words from the Key Verse written on them
- ☐ Straws (1 per TeamKID)

#### HIDDEN PASSAGE DISCOVERY

- ☐ "Hidden Passage Cards" (item 31)

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Medical Missions Starts Churches" missions video
- ☐ "World Map" (item 8)
- ☐ Toy medical kit items or photos of medical equipment
- ☐ Bible

### GAMES

#### STEAL THE BACON (PLAYBOOK, P 29)

Playground ball or other small item

#### WALK AND STOP (PLAYBOOK, P 36)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

#### FOUR FRIENDS OBSTACLE COURSE (PLAYBOOK, P 37)

- ☐ Obstacle course objects
- ☐ Beach towel (1 per group)
- ☐ Small object such as a ball or stuffed animal (1 per group)

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 2 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ "Unit 2 Parent Connections" (item 27)

# LEADER DEVOTION

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## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Mark 2:1-12 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

Jesus' popularity was growing. He was likely becoming a household name as word of His miracles spread far and wide. People were beginning to come from all over to hear Him preach and receive healing. No matter how famous He became or how many people crowded around Him, He always had time for those in need. Jesus didn't begrudge these four friends for interrupting His teaching. Instead, He saw their great faith. They were so confident that Jesus could heal their paralyzed friend they were willing to dig a hole in the roof to lower him down on his mat.

Perhaps what Jesus did next surprised everyone in the house. Rather than healing the man right away, He told him his sins were forgiven. Only after that did Jesus heal his legs. Jesus knew that while the man's paralysis was tragic, it was his sin that was truly devastating. Sin is a heart issue that we are helpless to fight on our own. Thankfully, our Savior is bigger than sin and has the power to forgive us and bring us back to God.

As you prepare to teach this session to the kids, consider the work Jesus has done in your own heart. Praise God for His forgiveness and thank Him for welcoming you into His family!

## CONSIDER

- Where have you experienced Jesus' forgiveness in your own life?
- What has your response been to God for the redemptive work He is doing in you?

## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: THIS OR THAT (5–10 MINUTES)

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video to get started.

Read the list of activities. Instruct the kids to run to one side of the room if it’s something people can do, and run to the other side of the room if it’s something only God can do.

1. Dunk a basketball
2. Place the stars in the sky
3. Hold the universe in His hands
4. Design feathers for eagles
5. Design new clothes
6. Give someone medicine when they are sick
7. Heal someone of a disease for which there is no cure
8. Run from one side of a football field to the other
9. Be everywhere at once
10. Create things without any materials
11. Forgive others
12. Forgive my sin

**Say:** God has given us strong minds and bodies that can do really amazing things! There are also lots of things that only God can do. We can’t create things out of nothing, and we can’t know all things like God. We also don’t have the power to heal diseases and forgive sin. Today we’ll hear a story from God’s Word that shows us that Jesus is the only One who has this kind of power. Let’s get ready to hear more!

### BIBLE STUDY: JESUS FORGAVE SIN (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 27 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

**Say:** The Bible is God’s true word to us. It comes from Him so we know that we can trust and obey everything it says. Sometimes we might hear a story from the Bible more than once. Perhaps our story today is familiar to you. No matter how many times we read the Bible, God always has something new to show us about Himself. As we read and talk about today’s Bible study, let’s try to think about what it shows us about God.

**DEFINE IT: FORGIVENESS**—refusing to punish someone who has hurt you or sinned against you. Only God can forgive our sin. God’s forgiveness of sin comes at a great cost—Jesus’ death and resurrection

**Say:** Today’s Bible story teaches us about forgiveness. Have you ever had to ask for forgiveness from someone? We all need forgiveness for the wrong things we do. People can forgive one another, but only God can forgive our sin against Him. Let’s open our Bibles to Mark 2 and discover more about what God wants to teach us about forgiveness.

Consider marking Bible passages for kids to read during Bible study. Utilize slides as needed.



## JESUS FORGAVE SIN BASED ON MARK 2:1-17

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Read Mark 2:1-4, or invite TeamKIDs to read these verses aloud.

Jesus had been preaching and teaching in Capernaum and throughout Galilee. Many people had heard of His teachings and His power to heal, and came to Jesus. On this occasion, four friends brought a man who was paralyzed to Jesus. When they arrived at the home where Jesus was teaching, there was no room for them to bring their friend to Jesus, but that did not stop these friends. They climbed to the roof of the house, dug a hole in the roof, and lowered their friend to Jesus on a mat.

**Ask:** What do you think these friends expected Jesus to do for the man who was paralyzed? (They probably expected Jesus to heal him of his paralysis.)

Read Mark 2:5, or invite a TeamKID to read this verse aloud.

**Ask:** What did Jesus do for the man who was paralyzed? (He forgave his sins.)

Jesus, seeing the faith of these men, told the man on the mat that His sins were forgiven. Jesus had been teaching about the good news of salvation and healing others to demonstrate His power as the Messiah, God's Promised One. In this true story, Jesus demonstrated another aspect of His divine power. Jesus has the power to forgive sin because He is God the Son.

Read Mark 2:6-12, or invite several TeamKIDs to read these verses aloud.

The scribes (religious teachers) who had been listening to Jesus' teachings began questioning Jesus' authority in their minds. They knew that the Scriptures taught that only God can forgive sins. Jesus immediately knew what they were thinking (because Jesus knows everything). To demonstrate His authority over all things, Jesus also healed the man. Jesus told the man to get up, take his mat, and walk home. The man immediately stood up and walked out of the house, and the people were absolutely amazed! Let's keep reading to find out what Jesus did next.

Read Mark 2:13-14, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses aloud.

Jesus continued teaching large crowds of people about the good news of God's kingdom. As he passed by, He saw Matthew (Levi). Jesus called Matthew, a tax collector, to follow Him. Immediately Matthew got up and followed Jesus.

Read Mark 2:15-17, or invite a TeamKID to read this verse aloud.

**Ask:** What kind of people did Jesus spend time with? What does that tell you about Jesus?

Jesus spent time with people whom others disliked, including tax collectors and sinners. Jesus came to forgive sin and teach people about how they can be part of God's kingdom. He demonstrated His power and authority not only to heal people, but also to forgive sins because He is God the Son.

## GOING DEEPER

**Say:** This passage from the Bible teach us that **Jesus came to forgive sinners and show people that He is the Messiah**. Only God can forgive sin. By declaring that the paralyzed man's sins were forgiven, Jesus showed others His power because Jesus is God the Son. He has power over all things, including creation, sickness, sin, and even death.

Jesus loves us even when we disobey God. The Bible tells us in Romans 5:8 that it was while we were still sinners that Jesus died for us. This is how we know how much God loves us. We don't have to clean up our lives to come to Jesus. We can bring Him our sin, our hurts, and our brokenness, and He heals us! He forgives our sin and draws us close to our Heavenly Father.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- What two things did Jesus do for the paralyzed man? (He forgave the man's sin and healed him so he could walk again.)
- How did Jesus demonstrate forgiveness for Matthew (Levi)? (He called Matthew to follow Him and be one of His disciples. Matthew left everything and followed Jesus.)

### Older Kids

- Only God can forgive our sins, but followers of Jesus are called to forgive others when people wrong us or hurt our feelings. Why do you think it's sometimes hard for us to forgive others? (Help TeamKIDs see that we struggle to forgive because we, too, are sinners. We look at the wrongs others have done and sometimes forget how big our sin against God is and how much we have been forgiven.)
- What is something we can remember when we struggle to forgive? (Discuss how TeamKIDs can remember that our sin is much bigger than we think it is. Jesus forgives us of our sin because of His love for us, and He calls us to forgive others.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages.

Lead kids to turn to the backs of their activity pages. Guide them in completing "Study a Bible Person: Matthew."

- **Say:** One way we can know the Bible better is to learn about the people found in Scripture. The Matthew we find in this passage is the very same Matthew who wrote the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew (also known as Levi) was inspired by God to write this Gospel book so others would know who Jesus is and why He came. He wanted people to understand that Jesus is the promised Messiah that the prophets wrote about in the Old Testament.

Explain that an apostle is someone who is sent on a mission, especially the twelve men whom Jesus called and sent.

## PRAY

Lead the children in a prayer or ask a kid to pray for the group. Thank God for helping us understand that Jesus came to forgive us and showing us that He is the Messiah.

## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: VERSE STRAW RELAY

*Provide: Small pieces of paper with words from the Key Verse written on them (1 set for each team), straws (1 per TeamKID)*

- Review Mark 2:17 a few times with the kids. Then create two groups (or groups of three to five if the class is large). Give each kid a straw and scatter the pieces of paper on the floor or a table on the opposite side of the room from the teams. The kids will run relay style to the cards, use their straws to suction the paper to the straw, and bring the paper back to their teams. The team that gets all its cards in the correct order first wins.
- Explain that Jesus used the idea of a doctor helping a patient to help people understand why He came. **Jesus came to forgive sinners and show people that He is the Messiah.** He showed His power through His miracles. Jesus is much more than a doctor because He doesn't just heal our bodies. Jesus is able to forgive our sins because He is God the Son and has all power and authority.

### OPTION 2: HIDDEN PASSAGE DISCOVERY

*Provide: Cut apart "Hidden Passage Cards" (item 31) and hide cards around the room.*

- Invite the kids to find the cards hidden around the room. If they get a verse card, they must look up the reference to learn what the story is about. Then they must find the person who has the story sentence card that matches. When all the pairs have been formed, let them read the reference and story sentence for the group.
- Share that the Bible is full of so many wonderful stories, many of which kids may be familiar with. Say, "I bet there are a lot of stories you've never heard. It's so fun to discover all that the Bible has to offer. If any of these stories sound interesting to you, I encourage you to read through them this week and find out more!"

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: "World Map" (item 8), toy medical kit items or photos of medical equipment, Bible, "Medical Missions Starts Churches" missions video*

Explain that they will learn about a missionary doctor named Doug Derbyshire in Thailand. Ask a volunteer to point to Thailand on the "World Map" (item 8). Then, play the missions video.

- **Say:** Jesus can forgive all sins. That's something medical missionaries want people to know. Jesus can heal their bodies and heal them from their sins through forgiveness. Because of his work in Thailand, Dr. Derbyshire can see lives changed and new churches started.

One by one, display the medical items or photos you've brought. Ask for a volunteer to describe how each instrument is used. After the medical supplies, display a Bible. Ask how a missionary doctor might use a Bible.

- **Say:** Helping people get well is important, but missionaries know that it's most important for people to be healed of their sin through the forgiveness of Jesus. A Bible is the most important tool because it tells people how to know Jesus.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: STEAL THE BACON (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 29)

*Provide: Playground ball or other small item*

- Lead TeamKIDS to form two teams and explain that each kid will race to the middle of the play area to try and steal the “bacon” when his number is called. The first person to steal the bacon must call out Today’s Point, **Jesus came to forgive sinners and show people that He is the Messiah.** If she says Today’s Point correctly her team gets a point. For an added challenge, call out several numbers at once. The team with the most points after a given amount of time wins.
- Debrief: Remind TeamKIDS that they heard several stories about Jesus healing people. Today’s Bible study taught us that Jesus doesn’t just heal physical sickness; He also heals us from our sin. Jesus showed His authority and power by healing people and forgiving them of their sins. He has power in our lives, too.

### WALK AND STOP (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 36)

*No supplies needed.*

- Explain to the kids that you are going to give them commands to follow. When you say “walk” they must walk around the room, and when you say “stop” they must stop immediately. Practice this a few times then tell them that you will add additional commands. However, TeamKIDS should only obey the “walk” and “stop” commands. Include commands such as jump, skip, walk backwards, and so forth. If TeamKIDS fail to obey the commands, they have to jump up and down five times and then rejoin the game.
- Debrief: Share how important it was for TeamKIDS to listen carefully to the commands so they could follow them. Explain how in today’s Bible story Jesus gave a command to Matthew (also known as Levi) to follow Him. Matthew left his old job as a tax collector and followed Jesus immediately. Over the past few weeks we have talked about how Jesus has all power and authority. He is the Messiah who came to rescue us and forgive us of our sins. He calls us to follow Him by responding to the good news of the gospel.

### FOUR FRIENDS OBSTACLE COURSE (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 37)

*Provide: Tables, chairs, and other nearby objects for an obstacle course, beach towel (1 per group), small object such as a ball or stuffed animal (1 per group)*

- Set up an obstacle course around the classroom with tables, chairs, and other nearby objects. Form groups of 4. Give each group a beach towel and a small object (such as a ball, stuffed animal, etc.). The four friends will carry the “paralyzed man” on the beach towel through an obstacle course. This might include crawling under a table, weaving in and out of chairs, etc. Time each group to see which one moves through the course the fastest. Play several rounds as time allows.
- Debrief: Recap today’s Bible study. Share how this story reminds us of what the Bible has to say about love for other people. When we love someone we want what is best for her and we are willing to make big sacrifices to put her needs above our own. These men had faith that Jesus could heal their friend, and He did. They were willing to do whatever it took to get to Jesus.



## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: "Questions with Kids" slide*

Display the "Questions with Kids" slide. Remind kids that **Jesus came to forgive sinners and show people that He is the Messiah.**

- **Ask:** How did Jesus show His power as the King God promised?

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today's study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today's activity page.

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, "Key Verse" slide*

Read today's Key Verse or invite TeamKIDs to read it aloud.

- **Say:** We heard two stories today that show us what Jesus is like. He healed a man who had been paralyzed to show that He has authority over our bodies. He also forgave the man's sin to show that He is the Messiah and He has the authority to forgive sin because He is God.

- We also heard the story of Jesus calling Matthew to follow Him. Matthew gave up everything he had to be close to Jesus. He knew there was something special about this man, and when he left his tax collector booth behind, Matthew got a front row seat for the incredible things Jesus would do. Matthew later wrote down all that he had seen and heard, which we can now read as the Gospel of Matthew. All of the Gospel books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) teach us about Jesus—who He is and why He came. Jesus came to rescue us from sin and give us new life with God.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!

### PRAY

Lead the kids in prayer, or ask a volunteer to pray. Thank God for teaching us about Jesus and how He forgives sin. Ask God to work in our hearts to help us know and love Jesus more each day. Ask God to give us a saving faith that would help us obey God and draw close to Him.

### DISMISS

*Provide: "Unit 2 Parent Connections" (item 27)*

Play a round of "Telephone." Instruct the kids to sit or stand in a line. Whisper a message to the first kid. That TeamKID will whisper it to the person next to her and so on until it gets to the last person. See if the kids can send the correct message all the way down the line.

Potential messages:

**Jesus came to forgive sinners and show people that He is the Messiah.**

Jesus forgave the paralyzed man of his sin and healed him.

Jesus cares about our suffering and helps us.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and a Parent Connection.



## SESSION 13

# THE COMPASSIONATE ONE

TODAY'S POINT: JESUS IS COMPASSIONATE AND CARING. HE CAME TO OBEY GOD'S PLAN BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR GOD AND PEOPLE.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus Healed a Woman and Raised a Girl  
(Mark 5:21-43)

### KEY VERSE

Take up my yoke and learn from me,  
because I am lowly and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:29

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 27).

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 2 slide
- ☐ Session 13 slide
- ☐ Unit 2 Countdown Video

- ☐ Chairs, optional (1 fewer than the total number of TeamKIDs)
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### KEY VERSE TOSS

- ☐ Ball or other small object
- ☐ Dry erase board and marker

#### BIBLE DIVISIONS

- ☐ Sticky notes
- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Tape

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Allergy Alert" (item 4)
- ☐ "Medical Missions in Thailand" (item 32)
- ☐ Adhesive bandages
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Index cards (optional)

### GAMES

#### PRAY, GIVE, GO (PLAYBOOK, P 30)

- ☐ No supplies needed

#### DRAGON TAILS (PLAYBOOK, P 38)

- ☐ Bandannas

#### HUMAN KNOT (PLAYBOOK, P 39)

- ☐ No supplies needed

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 2 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ Note cards
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ "Unit 2 Parent Connections" (item 27)

# LEADER DEVOTION

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## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Mark 5:21-43 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

This passage gives us two stories of desperate people whose only hope was Jesus. Jairus' daughter was on the verge of death, and her father was desperate for Jesus to lay His hands on her and heal her. So too was the woman who had suffered from twelve years of bleeding. Her condition had rendered her poor and socially outcast. The Gospel of Mark records these two desperate situations, with Jesus right at the center. Jesus met Jairus and the woman in their pain and suffering. Immanuel—"God with us"—is not just a title given to Jesus. It is a name that describes His character. Jesus put Himself in the middle of brokenness and lived among us. He is with us in our pain and shows compassion for us.

In this session you will point kids to the compassion and love of Jesus through the stories of His healing the woman and raising the young girl. Show kids that God loves us so much that He is willing to be right in the middle of any suffering we experience. God doesn't leave us alone in our pain. He gives us the strength to have faith, to believe that He is bigger than our brokenness, and to trust that He is with us.

## CONSIDER

- Consider the ways you have experienced God's kindness and compassion in your own life. How has God met you in your pain and shown His love for you?
- Where have you seen Jesus bring freedom from suffering?
- What specific way has God shown kindness to you this week?

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## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: THAT'S TRUE! (5–10 MINUTES)

*Provide: Chairs, optional (one fewer than the total number of TeamKIDs)*

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video to get started.

Lead TeamKIDs to stand or sit in a circle. Choose one kid to stand in the middle of the circle. The kid in the middle will say something true about himself. If that statement is true for any of the other kids in the circle, they will stand up, shout out “me too!” and run to find another seat. Whoever is left standing without a seat will then say something true about herself. Continue playing until everyone has had a chance to be in the middle.

- **Say:** There are a lot of things that are true about each of you. There are a lot of true things about Jesus, too. Today we're going to learn something true about Jesus from the Book of Mark. **Jesus is compassionate and caring. He came to obey God's plan because of His love for God and people.**

### BIBLE STUDY: JESUS HEALED A WOMAN AND RAISED A GIRL (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 29 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

- **Ask:** What are some true words that describe Jesus? (faithful, just, holy, God the Son, Promised One, and so forth.)

- **Say:** The Bible tells us many true things about who Jesus is and why He came. In the Old Testament book of Isaiah, the prophet Isaiah said that Jesus would be called Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14) Immanuel means “God with us.” This isn't just a special title given to Jesus. This name describes how Jesus would live among people while He was on earth.

- Jesus saw people who were hurting, scared, and in need, and He was compassionate toward them. Jesus healed people to display His power and help people see that He is God the Son. He healed people because He loved and cared for people. Jesus came to obey God's plan and die on a cross to take the punishment for our sin. His love for God and His compassion for people led Him to act in big ways. Let's open our Bibles to Mark 5 and see how Jesus is with the people in these verses.

Consider marking Bible passages for kids to read during Bible study. Utilize slides as needed.

**DEFINE IT: COMPASSION**—a strong desire to help people in need and treat others with kindness

## JESUS HEALED A WOMAN AND RAISED A GIRL BASED ON MARK 5:21-43

Read Mark 5: 21-24, or invite a child to read these verses aloud.

- Jairus was desperate for Jesus' help. His daughter lay dying, and the only hope for her getting better was Jesus. When Jairus came to Jesus to ask Him to heal his little girl, Jesus didn't hesitate. He went right away with Jairus to heal her. Jesus cared about Jairus and his little girl. Jesus has compassion on people. That means He shows concern for people who are suffering. He is sympathetic to us when we are hurting.

Read Mark 5:25-34, or invite a child to read these verses aloud.

- Ask:** What does the word desperate mean? Have you ever felt desperate for something?

- Jairus was desperate for Jesus to heal his daughter, and now this woman was desperate for healing as well. She had suffered for 12 years. That's longer than most of you have been alive! She had spent all the money she had on different doctors and cures, but nothing worked. She believed that if only she could reach out and touch Jesus' clothes she would be healed, and she was! The woman was healed, and she knew it instantly. Jesus felt healing power go out from Him so He turned to find out who had touched Him.

- Ask:** How did Jesus respond to the sick woman? What does this tell you about Jesus?

- Let's remember that Jesus was on His way to heal Jairus' daughter when He was interrupted by the woman who reached out and touched His clothes. Jesus wasn't angry with her or frustrated that she was taking up precious moments of His time. Jesus had compassion on her. He saw her need and He cared about her. This shows us that Jesus is compassionate and caring. He came to be with us—Immanuel. Jesus came to earth and obeyed God's plan because of His love for God and people. He spoke gently to the woman, telling her that it was her faith that made her well. He told her to go in peace and be freed from her suffering. Jesus had healed her from the pain she had carried with her for twelve long years.

Read Mark 5:35-43.

- As they continued on their way to Jairus' house to meet his daughter, someone from the house of Jairus came and told Jairus that his daughter had died. Jesus told Jairus not to be afraid, but to believe.

- Ask:** How did Jesus heal Jairus' daughter? (He took her hand and said, "Little girl, get up.")

- Jesus touched the dead girl and commanded her to get up. This is something only God's power can do.

- Ask:** Why do you think Jesus performed this miracle? (to show that He is God the Son)

- Jesus brought the young girl back to life to show that He is God. One of the names of Jesus is Immanuel, which means "God with us." Jesus came to earth to show God's love for the people He created. Jesus knows us, loves us, and is with us.



## GOING DEEPER

- **Say:** Jesus is compassionate and caring. He came to obey God's plan because of His love for God and people. Jesus understands what we go through, and He cares about us! We have learned over the last few weeks that Jesus is in charge of everything, including us. He has power over sickness and sin, and now we learn that He even has power over death. When we trust in Jesus we can know for sure that our faith saves us. Our sin is forgiven and we have a place in the family of God that can't be taken away. While everyone will die at some point, we know that dying is not the end. When we give our life to Jesus we have eternal life forever with God!

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- How did Jesus respond to Jairus' request to come heal his daughter? (Jesus went with him; Mark 5:24)
- What interruption did Jesus face on his way to Jairus' house? (A woman touched His garment and was healed. Jesus noticed power had gone out from Him; Mark 5:28-30)
- What did the woman think she needed to do to be healed? What did Jesus say was the actual reason for her healing? (She thought she only needed to touch Jesus' clothes, but it was really her faith that made her well.)

### Older Kids

- What do these two stories teach us about what Jesus is like? (Lead kids to discuss what it means that Jesus is compassionate and caring. He sees and cares for those others ignore or overlook.)
- One of the names for Jesus is Immanuel which means "God with us." Have you experienced God's presence with you? What is that like? (Lead kids to discuss.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Lead kids to turn to the back of their activity pages. Guide them in completing "Love out Loud," page 30. Encourage TeamKIDs to draw about ways they have seen compassion from others.

If time allows, encourage kids to complete the discussion question, or encourage them to complete this at home with an adult.

- **Say:** The Bible teaches us that Jesus is with us and He cares for us. He is humble, kind, and compassionate, and through Him we can show compassion and love to others around us.

## PRAY

Lead kids in prayer, or invite a TeamKID who volunteers to pray. Thank God for today's Bible study and for His incredible love for us. Ask Him to remind us of His love and care for us and to give us greater compassion and care for others.

## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: KEY VERSE TOSS

*Provide: Ball or other small object, dry erase board and marker (optional)*

- Invite the kids to find Matthew 11:29 in their Bibles. Read through the verse several times. Consider writing the verse on the board for kids to look at during the activity. Invite the kids to stand in a circle. Give one kid the ball. She will say the first word of the verse then toss the ball to another kid in the circle. He will say the second word before tossing the ball. Continue this way until the whole verse has been said. Go through the verse several times, challenging the kids to say it as fast as they can without making a mistake.
- Explain that a yoke is a large piece of wood that a farmer would put on the necks of a pair of cows, oxen, or horses so they could work together to pull a load. Horses wearing a yoke always move in the same direction. Share that in this verse, Jesus tells us to take His yoke upon us. He wants to be the one to lead us. He wants us to trust Him and walk with Him as we go through life.

### OPTION 2: BIBLE DIVISIONS

*Provide: Sticky notes—write New Testament books on them and place them in the center of the room, Paper—write the 5 divisions of the New Testament (“Gospels,” “Church History,” “Paul’s Letters,” “General Letters,” and “Prophecy”) each on one sheet of paper and tape the sheets around the room*

- Explain that the kids will run to the center of the room, grab a sticky note, then hang it on the correct Bible division poster taped around the room. When the kids have collected all the notes for each division, assign TeamKIDS to each poster with a Bible, and encourage them to put the notes in the correct Bible order.
- Share that the books of the Bible are not arranged chronologically from oldest to newest. Instead, they are arranged by content—what the books have in common. The Holy Spirit inspired each of the New Testament writers to write these books. They are all a little different, but each one tells part of the story God wants us to know about His love for us and His plan to redeem us from sin.

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: “Allergy Alert” (item 4) (latex allergy), “Medical Missions in Thailand” (item 32), adhesive bandages, markers, index cards (optional)*

- **Say:** These photos show more about the compassionate work of medical workers in Thailand. Missionaries, Thai Christians, and volunteers show the love and compassion of Jesus through working in clinics. When they help someone to get well, they also tell them about Jesus and try to connect them with a church where they can keep learning.

Invite kids to select two bandages. Ask them to work with a friend to put one bandage on each arm. If they prefer, they can put the bandages on their clothes or on an index card. Ask pairs to write things to pray for medical missionaries (health, churches, supplies, Bibles), one on each bandage. If easier for your group, write prayer items on the bandages before distributing.

Take time to pray for medical missionaries and ask kids to use the bandages as prayer reminders when they get home.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: PRAY, GIVE, GO (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 30)

*No supplies needed.*

- Before beginning the game, explain the pray, give, go motions. (PRAY: fold hands in prayer; GIVE: hold hands open in front of you; GO: run in place) Players will turn their backs to their partners and choose a motion. Count down from three to one and kids will turn around, displaying one of three motions. Anyone with the same motion must freeze in place for the next round. Encourage kids to find new partners and continue play.
- Debrief: Remind TeamKIDs that they heard several stories about Jesus healing people. These recorded events of Jesus' miraculous power in the Bible help us know that Jesus is in control of everything! Jesus showed His authority and power by healing people. He has power in our lives too. Jesus invites us to be part of God's kingdom by praying, giving, and going to tell others about Him.

### DRAGON TAILS (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 38)

*Provide: Bandannas (1 per team)*

- Form teams of four to five TeamKIDs. The players in each team will link arms with one another to create a "dragon." The last player or the "dragon tail" will put the bandanna in her pocket. The goal of the game is to grab the bandannas from the other dragons while protecting your own. If a dragon loses her bandanna she is out until the next round. (Alternatively, when a team gets another dragon's bandanna the teams can link up to form an even bigger dragon.) The last team standing wins.
- Debrief: Explain that to win this game all your team had to do was grab the other teams' bandannas. Encourage kids to remember the story we heard today: the woman who had been sick for twelve years believed that all she needed to do to be well was touch the hem of Jesus' clothes. Jesus had compassion on the woman and she was healed. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be healed from your affliction."

### HUMAN KNOT (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 39)

*No supplies needed.*

- Form groups of five to eight TeamKIDs. Explain that they will stand in a circle, and grab hands with someone not standing next to them. The goal of the game is to untangle the human knot without letting go. The first group to do so must shout out Today's Point to win the game: **Jesus is compassionate and caring. He came to obey God's plan because of His love for God and people.**
- Debrief: Share how sometimes it feels like the sin in our lives has us tied up in a knot. We can get tangled up in our own sin until we don't know which way is up. Jesus came to set us free from sin and give us eternal life with God. Jesus forgives our sin and invites us to be part of God's kingdom here and now. He helps us avoid temptation and sin so that we can live for Him!

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: "Questions with Kids" slide*

Display the "Questions with Kids" slide. Remind kids that Jesus knows us, loves us, and is with us. Ask them how this promise makes them feel. Encourage kids to discuss key points from today's study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today's activity page.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!

- **Say: Jesus is compassionate and caring. He came to obey God's plan because of His love for God and people.** Jesus' love for us begins with His love for God. Because Jesus knows God the Father and loves Him, that love is shown by obedience. When we love God, we will want to obey Him. Think about someone you could show love to this week. What could you do to make them feel loved?

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, "Key Verse" slide*

Read today's Key Verse and invite TeamKIDs to echo the verse. Explain to the group that these words are important because in them, Jesus explained His character to His followers. These are not just words written about Jesus, even though those are important, too! These are words Jesus used to describe Himself.

Lead kids to look at the verse and point out the words Jesus used to talk about Himself. (lowly, humble in heart)

Share that Jesus came to give rest to those who are weary and feel burdened. He came to teach us about God and His kingdom and welcome us into God's kingdom when we trust in Him for salvation.

### PRAY

Lead the kids in prayer or invite a kid to pray for the class. Thank God for His amazing love and ask Him to help us love others this week the way He loves us.

### DISMISS

*Provide: "Unit 2 Parent Connections" (item 27), note cards and markers*

Pass out note cards and markers. Invite the kids to write a note of encouragement to someone they know. Encourage the kids to deliver their notes this week and share today's Bible story with that person.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and a Parent Connection.



## SESSION 14

# THE SENDER

TODAY'S POINT: JESUS WORKED THROUGH HIS DISCIPLES TO TEACH PEOPLE ABOUT GOD AND HIS KINGDOM.

### BIBLE STORY

The Harvest and the Twelve

(Matthew 9:35–10:15)

### KEY VERSE

Take up my yoke and learn from me,  
because I am lowly and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:29

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 27).

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 2 slide
- ☐ Session 14 slide
- ☐ Unit 2 Countdown Video

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### SKETCH IT OUT

- ☐ Large pieces of paper (1 per TeamKID)
- ☐ Markers

#### EASY YOKE

- ☐ Pool noodles (1 per team)
- ☐ Index cards

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Gifts of Hope" missions video
- ☐ Tarps or plastic tablecloths

### GAMES

#### PRAY, GIVE, GO (PLAYBOOK, P 30)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

#### BLOB TAG (PLAYBOOK, P 40)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

#### CHARADES RELAY (PLAYBOOK, P 41)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 2 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ Target made from a large piece of craft paper
- ☐ Beanbag
- ☐ "Unit 2 Parent Connections" (item 27)



# LEADER DEVOTION

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## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Matthew 9:35–10:15 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

Sheep without shepherds often get lost, or find their way into trouble because of their own foolishness. We have all been like sheep without a shepherd to lead and guide us at one time or another. We have arrogantly believed that our ways were better than God's ways. Today's Bible passage teaches us that Jesus sees people. He has compassion for us, and He cares for us.

Jesus told His disciples to pray to the Lord of the harvest, that God would send workers out into the harvest. Then, Jesus (the Lord of the harvest) answered the disciples' prayers by sending them out into the harvest field, the surrounding towns and villages, to proclaim the good news. They were given power to heal people as they shared the message of hope: "the kingdom of heaven has come near."

This is the same message that we get to take into the world today. Our communities are filled with people who need this message of hope and salvation. As you teach kids this week, help them think through ways they can show God's love to others, beginning with compassion. Jesus cared for the people He ministered to, and it was His love for them that compelled Him to sacrifice so deeply. Encourage kids this week that we can ask God to help us love others, serve with compassion, and share the good news of the gospel.

## CONSIDER

- What prayers can you pray to God with a willingness to be part of the answer?
- What are the ways God is already working through you to compassionately serve others in His name?

## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: GROUP STORY (5–10 MINUTES)

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video to get started.

Invite kids to sit in a circle. Explain that the group will be telling a story together, but every time they want to say the word “I” they must replace it with “yellow.” Choose one kid to start the story by saying, “One day yellow was walking down the street when . . .” and finishing the sentence. The kid to the right continues the story by adding the next sentence. Continue around the circle with each kid adding a sentence or two. The last kid will then tie up the story. If time allows, create another story using a different beginning sentence.

- **Say:** You all came up with a really creative story! It may have been a little confusing at first to hear “yellow,” but once you knew what it meant, it was easier to understand, right? In today’s Bible study, Jesus used a metaphor that might sound a little confusing at first. Just like we used the color “yellow” to mean “I” in our story, this metaphor will make sense once we understand what it means.

### BIBLE STUDY: THE HARVEST AND THE TWELVE (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 31 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

- **Say:** Did you know that God is telling a story? We are part of the story God is telling as He builds His kingdom. Remember, the kingdom of God is God’s rule and power over all He has made. God wants people to follow and submit to His rule and authority because they love and trust Him. The incredible thing is God invites us to be part of the work He does. Let’s open our Bibles to Matthew 9 as we hear about an important job Jesus gave His disciples (and us)!

Consider marking Bible passages for kids to read during Bible study. Utilize slides as needed.

**DEFINE IT: METAPHOR**—a figure of speech used to make a comparison between two things that aren’t alike but do have something in common

## THE HARVEST AND THE TWELVE

### BASED ON MATTHEW 9:35–10:15

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Read Matthew 9:35-38, or invite a TeamKID to read this verse.

• **Ask:** How did Jesus feel about the crowds of people in the towns and villages? (He had compassion for them.)

• People were coming to Jesus to hear the good news of God's kingdom and to be healed from different sicknesses. Jesus saw the people and had compassion on them. Jesus was compassionate toward them because He saw that they were like sheep without a shepherd. Sheep need a shepherd to lead them and care for them. Like a good shepherd, Jesus knows what we need. The people came because they wanted physical healing, but Jesus saw their greater need to trust in God for salvation.

• After seeing the crowds Jesus told the twelve disciples that the harvest (people who need to hear about the good news of Jesus) was plentiful, but the workers (those who tell others the good news about Jesus) were few.

• **Ask:** What did Jesus tell the disciples to do? (Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.)

• Jesus used this metaphor of harvest and workers to teach his friends something about the kingdom of God. The people of Israel were ready for the Messiah to come, just like a field or garden becomes ready for the farmer to harvest it. They had been waiting for centuries for Him, and now Jesus had finally arrived. Jesus told the disciples to pray to the Lord of the harvest (God) to send out workers into His harvest.

Read Matthew 10:1-5a, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses.

• Did you notice what happened immediately after Jesus asked the disciples to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers? Jesus Himself gathered the disciples, the ones who were called to pray for workers, and He sent them out. Don't miss this! Jesus told them to pray, and then Jesus—God the Son—answered their prayer! Jesus is the Sender. He sent the disciples into the world to teach people about the good news of God's kingdom.

• Over the past few weeks we have talked about Jesus' power and authority over creation, sickness, and sin. Here we see Jesus giving some of His power to His disciples. As they went out to tell others about Jesus, they would have the power to heal people, just like Jesus did. Their power did not come from themselves. Any power they had over sickness came from Jesus.

Read Matthew 10:5-7, or invite a kid to read it

• **Ask:** What message were the disciples to share? (The kingdom of heaven has come near.)

• Jesus wanted His disciples to go into the towns and villages and preach that God's kingdom was here because Jesus Himself was here! Jesus invited His friends to be part of the work He was doing, and He invites us to do the same! We might not have authority to heal sickness, but we certainly have the power to share the gospel with people who don't know God's love.

## GOING DEEPER

- **Say:** Jesus invites us to be part of His mission. He wants us to pray, to go, and to tell others about Him. God is building His kingdom here and now, and He invites us to be part of it! **Jesus worked through His disciples to teach people about God and His kingdom.** In the same way, Jesus is at work through us today. He helps us as we talk about our faith with others and invite people to respond to the good news of the gospel.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- Jesus used a metaphor to teach the disciples. **Who were the harvest, the workers, and the Lord of the harvest?** (people who needed to hear the good news, people who told others about the good news of God's kingdom, God)
- **How did Jesus feel towards the people?** (He had compassion on them.)
- **Why did Jesus tell the disciples to pray?** (It was time for the message of the kingdom of God to spread to others. They prayed that God would raise up people to go share the message!)

### Older Kids

- **What did Jesus send the disciples out to do?** (heal others, perform miracles through the power of Jesus, preach that the kingdom of God was near)
- **Why do you think Jesus invited His disciples (and us) to be part of the mission of spreading the gospel?** (Help kids see that God invites us to be part of the story He is telling. He has compassion on people and wants everyone to respond to Him in faith.)
- **How can we be part of building God's kingdom this week?** (We can share the good news of the gospel with others. We can pray for people who are sharing about Jesus to be encouraged, strong in their faith, and keep telling others about Jesus, even when it gets difficult.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Lead kids to turn to side two of their activity pages. Invite them to complete "Harvest Workers," page 32. Guide kids to think about ways they could tell others about Jesus.

- **Say:** When we talk about being "harvest workers" we are talking about ways that we share the good news of Jesus with people and can show Jesus' love to others. In Matthew 10:7 Jesus told the disciples to go to the surrounding neighbors and villages and tell others the good news that the kingdom has come near. Because of Jesus' love for us, we are empowered to love others, even when loving other people seems hard.

## PRAY

Lead the kids in prayer, or ask one of the kids to pray. Thank God for inviting us to be part of the mission of building His kingdom.



## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: SKETCH IT OUT

*Provide: Large pieces of paper (1 per TeamKID), markers*

- Pass out a piece of craft paper to each kid. Instruct kids to find partners. One kid will lie down on the top half the paper while his partner traces his arms, shoulders, and head. Then TeamKIDs will switch places. Invite the kids to think of ways they can be part of building God's kingdom. What are things they could say to their friends to share their faith? What are things they can do with their hands to serve like Jesus did? Where can they tell others about Jesus? Instruct the kids to write or draw on their outlines some of the ways they can tell others about Jesus.
- Remind TeamKIDs that there are tons of ways we can serve others and tell them about Jesus. God has a job for each of us to do. Jesus worked through His disciples to teach people about God and His kingdom, and He works through us, too!

### OPTION 2: EASY YOKE

*Provide: Pool noodles (1 per team), index cards with words or phrases from the Key Verse on separate cards (1 set per team)*

- Place index cards on one side of the room. Review the Key Verse. Then form two or more groups. Give each group a pool noodle. Explain that kids will pair up with someone else on their team. When it is their turn, they will put the pool noodle across both of their necks like a yoke. They will run to the other side of the room, pick up a card with a word from the verse, and run back to their team. The teams will continue this way until all the cards have been retrieved and put in order.
- Explain that the Key Verse talks about a yoke—a farming tool used with animals to keep them connected. This verse tells us that we can take Jesus' yoke on us, and He will give us rest. Following Jesus means staying connected to Him. We can imagine being yoked (connected) to Jesus just like kids were yoked to their partners. Jesus will lead us where we need to go.

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## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: Tarps or plastic tablecloths, "Gifts of Hope" missions video*

- **Say:** Send Relief is a group of Christians who help people all over the world. People who work with Send Relief are sent to serve people in Jesus' name and teach people about God and His kingdom.
- Let's learn more about the gifts of hope they offer.

Play the missions video.

Form small groups. Give each group a tarp. Explain that a tarp costs about \$10 and is one of the things that Send Relief workers provide to people when they experience a natural disaster like a hurricane, flood, or earthquake. Ask kids to brainstorm ways they might use a tarp if they were in a natural disaster.

Give each group a chance to act out ways they might use the tarp. They could use it as a shelter, they could sit on it, they could use it as a blanket. Encourage creativity.

- **Say:** Something like a tarp can be very useful in an emergency situation, but it's most important that people hear about Jesus. That makes a group like Send Relief different. They don't just help people. They share the good news.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: PRAY, GIVE, GO (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 30)

*No supplies needed.*

- Before beginning the game, explain the pray, give, go motions. (PRAY: fold hands in prayer; GIVE: hold hands open in front of you; GO: run in place) Players will turn their backs to their partners and choose a motion. Count down from three to one and kids will turn around, displaying one of three motions. Anyone with the same motion must freeze in place for the next round. Encourage kids to find new partners and continue play.
- Debrief: Remind TeamKIDS that Jesus had compassion on all the people when He taught in the towns and villages. So He sent His disciples out to preach to the people and welcome them into God's kingdom. Jesus invites us to be part of God's kingdom by praying, giving, and going to tell others about Him.

### BLOB TAG (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 40)

*No supplies needed.*

- Choose one kid to be "It." Explain that "It" will try to tag other players. When players are tagged they will join hands with "It" and continue to try to tag other kids. Play continues until only one player is left untagged. That player then becomes the new "It" for another round.
- Debrief: Remind TeamKIDS that Jesus sent His disciples to share the good news of God's kingdom with others. If we have responded to the good news of Jesus, we have the same job! As believers, we get to tell others about Jesus and about His great love for people. As we share our faith, more and more people will begin to trust in Jesus and join in His mission of bringing God's kingdom into the world!

### CHARADES RELAY (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 41)

*No supplies needed.*

- Create two teams. Instruct the teams to spread out a bit so they cannot easily hear what the other team is guessing. One kid from each team will come to the leader, and she will whisper the first word from the list in her ear. The child will go back to her team and act out the word. When the word is guessed, another kid from the team will go to the leader to get the next word on the list. The first team to complete the list wins.
- Debrief: Exclaim that it's fun trying to communicate with people without words, but it's harder than we might think! When Jesus sent out His disciples, He wanted them to tell people that God's kingdom was near. They were to use words, and Jesus also wanted them to use their actions to show that God's kingdom had come. Sometimes the things we do can be a really powerful way of telling someone about God's love for them.

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: “Questions with Kids” slide*

Display the “Questions with Kids” slide. Encourage kids to discuss ways they can pray for others to hear the good news of Jesus. Encourage them to share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today’s activity page.

- **Say:** Jesus told His disciples that “the harvest is abundant but the workers are few.” The world
- needs to hear the good news about Jesus. Apart from Jesus people can’t have real peace and
- salvation. The gift Jesus offers is priceless, and He allows us to be part of sharing that gift. **Jesus**
- **worked through His disciples to teach people about God and His kingdom** and He uses us now
- to do the same thing! We can tell people that God loves us so much He was willing to die for our
- sins. When we trust Jesus we are freed from our sin and we can have peace with God. This is news
- worth sharing with the world!

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, “Key Verse” slide*

Lead TeamKIDs to echo today’s Key Verse as you read it aloud. Invite a TeamKID to explain what this verse means and why it is important.

Remind TeamKIDs that knowing what the Bible teaches is very important. It is always good to memorize God’s Word, but we also want to be able to explain what it means why it matters. Share that Jesus said these words to encourage His followers. Jesus provides rest for us when we trust in Him.

### PRAY

Lead the kids in prayer, or ask for a volunteer to pray. Thank God for today’s study about how Jesus came to send us out and join Him in the mission of sharing the good news with others. Ask God to help us share the good news of His kingdom with someone this week.

### DISMISS

*Provide: “Unit 2 Parent Connections” (item 27), beanbag, target made from a large piece of craft paper with the following phrases—summarize the story; What did you learn about Jesus?; What did you learn about people?; How can you build God’s kingdom this week?*

Instruct TeamKIDs to line up a few feet away from the target. Give the first kid a beanbag and have him toss it. Let him answer the question the bag lands on.

Remind kids that listening and learning about Jesus is important, but it is equally important for us to know why these things matter and how we can apply them to our daily lives. If we hear about Jesus but don’t put His words into action, we haven’t really learned anything. When we put what we hear into action, we show that we are learning and acting on Jesus’ words and growing in our faith.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and a Parent Connection.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!

## SESSION 15

# THE ONE TO COME

TODAY'S POINT: JESUS TAUGHT THAT HIS WAYS ARE ALWAYS BEST, EVEN WHEN WE DON'T UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus and John the Baptist (Luke 7:18-30)

### KEY VERSE

Take up my yoke and learn from me,  
because I am lowly and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:29

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 27).

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 2 slide
- ☐ Session 15 slide
- ☐ Unit 2 Countdown Video

- ☐ Paper bag
- ☐ Small items such as office supplies (pencil, rubber band, stapler, paper clip, and so forth)
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### KEY VERSE MOVES

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

#### DIVE DEEPER INTO MARK

- ☐ "Scripture Reference Cards" (item 33)
- ☐ Bibles

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Send Relief Gifts" (item 34)
- ☐ Paper money from a game or cut from construction paper—prepare to give each TeamKID \$10 of paper money

### GAMES

#### PRAY, GIVE, GO (PLAYBOOK, P 30)

- ☐ No supplies needed

#### LAVA FIELD (PLAYBOOK, P 42)

- ☐ Construction paper

#### WAX MUSEUM (PLAYBOOK, P 43)

- ☐ No supplies needed

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 2 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ Construction paper
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Stapler
- ☐ "Unit 2 Parent Connections" (item 27)



# LEADER DEVOTION

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## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Luke 7:18-23 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

Consider a time in your life that you have questioned or doubted God. What aspect of God's character was at the center of your doubt? What did you do with your doubt? When John the Baptist began to question and doubt, He went right to the source: Jesus. He sent messengers to ask Jesus a blunt question: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus told John to look back at the miracles He had performed. His life, teaching, and miracles all pointed to the truth that He is the Messiah.

When we question God's presence or goodness, we can look back at the evidence of what He has done in our lives. These are all gifts from God and evidence of His goodness.

As you teach kids this week, help them understand that God's ways are best, even when we don't fully understand what He is doing. John may have expected Jesus to release him from prison, but He didn't. We might have a lot of expectations about the way God will answer our prayers, and sometimes those expectations aren't met. When God doesn't do what we anticipate we can remember that God is bigger than our expectations or plans. He is all-knowing and loves us unconditionally. He might not always do what we expect, but He will always do what is best.

## CONSIDER

- Do you believe God is big enough to hold your doubts and questions? Explain your answer.
- What do you do when you struggle to believe God and trust in His faithfulness?
- How does your faith grow when God doesn't respond to a circumstance in your life the way you think He should?

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## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: ITS ALL IN THE DETAILS (5–10 MINUTES)

*Provide: Paper bag, small items such as office supplies (pencil, rubber band, stapler, paper clip, and so forth)*

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video to get started.

Choose one kid to come to the front. She will pull out an item from the bag without showing it to the group. She will then have to describe the object, and TeamKIDs will try to guess what it is. TeamKIDs only have three chances to guess correctly. The kid who guesses correctly will get to pull out the next object. Play several rounds.

- **Say:** Great job! All of the details that were shared helped us identify the correct object. If I described something as sharp and metallic, it might be difficult for you to know what it was until I said, “it’s something you can eat with.” Then you would know right away that it was a fork! Details help us understand more of what is going on when we can’t see the big picture.

### BIBLE STUDY: JESUS AND JOHN THE BAPTIST (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 33 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

- **Ask:** Do you think it is okay to ask questions or have doubts about what you learn in the Bible?

- **Say:** Doubt means to not know something for sure, or to be uncertain. Everyone doubts sometimes, and that is okay. Doubts and questions help us understand more about our faith and give us opportunities to trust God, even when we don’t understand all of the details of our circumstances.

- Today we’re going to study more about a man named John the Baptist. John was Jesus’ relative and a special messenger set apart by God to prepare the way for Jesus. After Jesus began His ministry, John was put in prison for sharing about how God’s ways are always best. While in prison, John had some questions about Jesus and if He really was the Promised One. He wanted some more details about who Jesus was and if He really was who He said He was. Let’s open our Bibles to Luke 7 and read more about John the Baptist and the question he asked Jesus.

**DEFINE IT: DOUBT**—to not know for sure; to be uncertain about whether something is true or false

Consider marking Bible passages for kids to read during Bible study. Utilize slides as needed.

## JESUS AND JOHN THE BAPTIST BASED ON LUKE 7:18-30

- John the Baptist, the special messenger God worked through to prepare the way for Jesus, was now in prison for teaching about following God's plans. By this time, Jesus had begun His public ministry. He was teaching people about the kingdom of God and demonstrating His power as the Messiah through many miracles. Let's read about John's response to hearing about Jesus' ministry.

Read Luke 7:18-19, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses aloud.

- **Ask:** What question did John have for Jesus? (Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?)

- John wanted to know for sure if Jesus was the "one to come." God had promised to send a Messiah to rescue His people way back in the Old Testament. The Jews expected the Messiah to be a conquering military leader who would defeat the Roman government who ruled them. Jesus wasn't what they expected, and now John the Baptist was beginning to question and doubt, too.

Read Luke 7:20-23, or invite a TeamKID to read this verse.

- **Ask:** How did Jesus respond to John? (Jesus told of the miracles that demonstrated His power and fulfilled Old Testament prophecies—the blind receive sight, the lame walk, people with diseases and sicknesses are healed, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life again.)

- When John questioned who Jesus was, Jesus reminded Him of specific examples of His power, but not just to show that Jesus is powerful. Jesus had performed many miracles of healing. Blind people were able to see, paralyzed people had been able to walk, people who were sick with incurable diseases had been healed, and even dead people were brought back to life. Everything Jesus did and said pointed to the truth that He is the Son of God. He is the promised Messiah.

- After Jesus answered John's friends, He began teaching the people about John the Baptist, reminding the people that John was a special messenger whom God sent to prepare the way for Jesus—the Promised One. Let's read about how the people responded to Jesus.

Read Luke 7:29-30, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses.

- **Ask:** How did the people respond to Jesus' teaching? (Some believed, but some rejected God's plan.)

- Many of the people who heard Jesus' teaching believed, and trusted in God's plan. But others did not believe and rejected Jesus. We might have questions or doubts about the truth of who Jesus is. We might wonder if He really is who He says He is. We can take our doubts and questions to God. He is not surprised or angry with our questions, and He is big enough to handle them. When John questioned if Jesus was really the Messiah, Jesus pointed Him to what was true. It is important that we know what we believe about God and why we believe it. When we have doubts and questions about God, Jesus, or the Bible, we can look to God's Word, talk to God, and ask Him to help us understand.

## GOING DEEPER

- **Say:** Sometimes we may have doubts about God, but **Jesus taught that His ways are always best, even when we don't understand everything.** Isaiah 55:8-9 says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways," This is the LORD's declaration. 'For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.'"
- God has compassion for us, even in the midst of our doubts. We can go to God with our questions and doubts and He will comfort us. We might not have all of our questions answered, but we can trust that God is good and He always loves us.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- What did John the Baptist want to know about Jesus? (Was He really the Messiah?)
- What did Jesus tell John's disciples? (to remind John of the miracles He had performed)

### Older Kids

- What does this story teach us about Jesus? (Encourage kids to discuss how Jesus responded to John's question. Jesus reminded John of all the details that God promised about the Messiah in the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled.)
- Jesus taught that His ways are best, even when we don't understand everything. Have you ever experienced doubt? What was that like? What did you do? (Lead TeamKIDs to discuss when they have experienced doubt. Encourage them to remember that even when we doubt, God is big enough to handle our doubts and questions.)
- How does it make you feel knowing that God knows everything and He wants what is best for you? (Remind TeamKIDs that God loves and cares about them. He sent Jesus to die on the cross and pay the penalty for sin. When we respond to the gospel in faith, we are forgiven of our sins, and God invites us to be part of His kingdom.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Lead kids to turn to the back of their activity pages. Invite them to complete "Study a Bible Book: Mark"

- **Say:** God inspired certain people to write down His words in different Bible books. When we study about a Bible book, we learn more about the details of that book and how it fits into the bigger picture of God's story.

## PRAY

Lead the kids in prayer or ask a volunteer to pray. Thank God for His Word and for reminding us that His ways are best, even when things don't go as we expect.



## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: KEY VERSE MOVES

- Review the Key Verse with the kids a few times. Then, instruct everyone to stand in a circle. Explain that they will go around the circle and each person will contribute a movement to go with the next word of the verse. The movements don't have to match the words. Each time a new word and movement is added, start at the beginning of the verse so all the kids can learn them. Once the whole verse has movements see how fast the kids can say it while performing the correct movements.
- Explain that it was tricky having to memorize not only the words but also all the movements! Share how we might also think that following Jesus is tricky, but it's actually not. Jesus promises that He is gentle and humble. He is a kind teacher and wants us to learn from Him. He promises to give us rest in our souls when we follow Him. Does that sound like someone you want to spend time with? I sure do!

### OPTION 2: DIVE DEEPER INTO MARK

*Provide: "Scripture Reference Cards" (item 33)—hide the reference portion of the cards around the room and tape the passage cards to the walls around the room, Bibles, tape*

- Explain that kids will need to find one of the "Scripture Reference Cards" (item 33) hidden around the room. Using their Bibles they will find the verses, read the story, then run to the story description card on the wall and tape the reference to the passage it matches.
- Ask if kids noticed what all of these stories had in common? (They all come from the book of Mark.) Share that the book of Mark is in the New Testament and is one of the four Gospel books. Invite TeamKIDs to name the other Gospel books (Matthew, Luke, and John). Remind the group that the Gospel books in the Bible tell the story of Jesus' life and ministry on earth. The book of Mark is a book of action. This short book shows us how different people respond to Jesus.

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## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: "Send Relief Gifts" (item 34), paper money from a game or cut from construction paper—Prepare to give each TeamKID \$10 of paper money.*

Display the pictures of the "Send Relief Gifts" (item 34).

- **Say:** These are some of the things that people can buy and send to people in need around the world. They can provide help and hope to people who might not understand why bad things happened to them.

Distribute the money and invite kids to look at the things they can buy. Tell them that they can shop alone or combine their money with others to buy bigger items. For example, they could buy seeds or a water filter, or they could provide someone a safe place for a day. Ask kids to talk about what they want to buy and why. Collect their money as they "shop."

As a missions project, consider encouraging kids to bring an offering for an item they might like to buy from the Send Relief gift catalog: [sendrelief.org/catalog](http://sendrelief.org/catalog). Let them choose together what to buy, and then begin to raise money for it.

- **Say:** Sometimes we can use our money by ourselves, and sometimes we give together. When our church takes up an offering, each family joins their gifts with others so that we can do more together. When we give to missions, we can do more when we give together.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: PRAY, GIVE, GO (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 30)

*No supplies needed.*

- Before beginning the game, explain the pray, give, go motions. (PRAY: fold hands in prayer; GIVE: hold hands open in front of you; GO: run in place) Players will turn their backs to their partners and choose a motion. Count down from three to one and kids will turn around, displaying one of three motions. Anyone with the same motion must freeze in place for the next round. Encourage kids to find new partners and continue play.
- Debrief: Remind TeamKIDs that when John the Baptist had questions about who Jesus really was, Jesus gently showed John that He is the Promised One that the Old Testament prophets told about. Jesus invites us to be part of God's kingdom by praying, giving, and going to tell others about Him. The gospel will be preached to all the world before Jesus returns. Let us be involved in that teaching and preaching.

### LAVA FIELD (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 42)

*Provide: Construction paper*

- Tell the kids they are going to pretend that the floor is lava! They must get from one side of the room to the other without touching the floor. They are allowed to use the pieces of construction paper to move from one side of the play area to the other. They must work together to get the whole team across the "lava field."
- Debrief: Encourage TeamKIDs for their great efforts. Share that they had to work together to come up with the best plan to get everyone to the other side. There may have even been several different ideas for how to get across. Remind kids that in today's Bible study we learned that **Jesus taught that His ways are always best, even when we don't understand everything.** Going through life can sometimes feel a little like navigating a lava field! We can trust God to guide us along the right path. He knows what is best for us, and He loves us!

### WAX MUSEUM (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 43)

*No supplies needed.*

- Choose one player to be the "curator." That player will turn his back to the rest of the group for 20 seconds while all the kids strike a pose. The curator will turn around and if he spots any of the statues moving they become "tourists" and have to follow the curator around. When the curator isn't looking, the statues can find new poses. The curator can also move a statue's arms, legs, or head to create a new pose. Play several rounds as time allows.
- Debrief: Ask TeamKIDs if it was hard for them to stay in the same poses. Share that the curators had some silly ideas for new poses. Remind kids that we're learning today that God's ways are best. When we start following Jesus, we are given the Holy Spirit, who then lives inside of us. How amazing is that! God works in us, changing us to be more like Jesus. It might not be as fast as when the curator put you in a new pose, but God is at work in you, growing your faith and teaching you how to live for Him.

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: "Questions with Kids" slide*

Display the "Questions with Kids" slide.

- **Ask:** What are some questions you would like to ask about Jesus?

Invite kids to share and discuss their questions.

- **Say:** We all have doubts from time to time. You might have a lot of questions about God that go unanswered for a long time. Or God may not answer prayers the way you expect. That doesn't mean that God isn't there or that He doesn't love you. Remember, **Jesus taught that His ways are best, even when we don't understand everything.** In our Bible passage Jesus reminded John about the incredible things He had done that point to the truth that He is the Messiah. When we have doubts about God we can look back on the things He has done in our lives and remember the truth of who He is.

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, "Key Verse" slide*

Invite TeamKIDs to read today's Key Verse with you. Encourage a TeamKID to volunteer to explain what this verse means. Talk about the verse with the group and share its importance in remembering who Jesus is and why He came.

### PRAY

Lead the kids in prayer. Thank God for His infinite wisdom and the way He loves us. Thank Him for always knowing what is best and for guiding us along the right paths. Ask Him to help us trust Him this week.

### DISMISS

*Provide: "Unit 2 Parent Connections" (item 27), construction paper, markers, stapler*

Distribute construction paper, markers, and staplers. Assist the kids in stacking, folding, and stapling the paper to make a gratitude journal. Then, encourage them to think about things God has done for them.

Kids can write about ways that God has blessed them (people, things, experiences, and so forth) or about a time God helped them through something hard. Encourage them to continue writing in their gratitude journals as they think of other things. These will serve as reminders of all the wonderful things God does in their lives.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and a Parent Connection.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!

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## SESSION 16

# THE LAWGIVER

TODAY'S POINT: JESUS HAS AUTHORITY OVER THE LAW AND CAME TO FULFILL THE LAW.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus Healed on the Sabbath  
(Matthew 12:1-14)

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 27).

### KEY VERSE

Truly I tell you, anyone who believes has eternal life. John 6:47

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 2 slide
- ☐ Session 16 slide
- ☐ Unit 2 Countdown Video

- ☐ Beach ball
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### QUIET ORDER

- ☐ Paper plates

#### GUESS WHO I AM

- ☐ "Guess Who I Am Clues" (item 35) (1 per TeamKID)
- ☐ Paper or mini dry erase boards
- ☐ Markers (washable or dry erase)
- ☐ Erasers (if using dry erase)

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "How to Send Relief" missions video
- ☐ Two water bottles, 1 with dirty water and 1 with clean water
- ☐ Small cups (1 per TeamKID)

### GAMES

#### KNOT SO FAST (PLAYBOOK, P 31)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

#### CAPTAIN'S ORDERS (PLAYBOOK, P 44)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

#### MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, AND JOHN (PLAYBOOK, P 45)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 2 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ Dry erase board
- ☐ Dry erase marker
- ☐ "Unit 2 Parent Connections" (item 27)



# LEADER DEVOTION

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## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Matthew 12:1-14 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

It can be easy to slip into the trap of a checklist kind of faith. We read our Bibles and pray because they are things on the to-do list that need to be checked off, but sometimes our hearts aren't really in it. The Pharisees were a checklist kind of people. They came up with so many rules and regulations to try to keep themselves and others on track, but somewhere along the way they lost what it means to love God. They were all about obeying all the laws, but they were no longer concerned about the motivation of why they should obey in the first place.

God certainly cares about our behavior and He desires for us to live in a way that honors Him. But when we pray and read our Bibles because we think these are things to do to earn His favor, we have missed the good news of the gospel. Jesus came so we could have relationships with God. He wants us to know Him and love Him. Our lives should be marked by an eagerness to spend time with our Savior because of who He is, not in an effort to earn His favor or love.

As you prepare to teach kids this week, spend some time reflecting on your own life. Point kids to the truth that our obedience to God flows out of our love for Him. When we have a right understanding of who God is and what He has done for us, our response is joyful obedience and a desire to honor Him with our lives. Pray that God would help you see this truth in your life this week.

## CONSIDER

- Do you identify more with the Pharisees or the man with the withered hand in this passage? Why?
- Are there any commandments of God that you tend to follow from an attitude of obligation rather than joyful obedience?
- How does the gospel change our motivations of obedience toward God from duty to delight?

## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: ACCEPT OR PASS (5–10 MINUTES)

*Provide: Beach ball*

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video to get started.

Invite kids to sit or stand in a circle. Explain that you will toss the beach ball to someone. She will say her name, then give a command for another TeamKID to follow. (examples: do five jumping jacks, run around the circle, spell your name backwards, and so forth.) Then, the person with the ball will toss it to another TeamKID. That person will decide if he will accept or pass on the challenge. Explain that a challenge may only be “passed” three times before it must be accepted. Continue this way until everyone has had a chance to answer.

• **Ask:** What are some rules or commands you have to follow at home? Which rules are hard to follow? Which ones are easy to follow?

• **Say:** Today, our Bible study is about some people who really wanted everyone to follow their rules. This passage is found in the Bible books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Today we will read the story in Matthew’s account. Let’s turn there together.

### BIBLE STUDY: JESUS HEALED ON THE SABBATH (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 35 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

Consider marking Bible passages for kids to read during Bible study. Utilize slides as needed.

**DEFINE IT: SABBATH**—day of rest, declared holy by God because He rested on the seventh day after creation

• **Say:** A word we will read about in our Bibles today that we may not have heard before is “Sabbath.” Does anyone know what the Sabbath is? To answer that question we have to go all the way back to Genesis 1 and 2. God spent six days creating everything. He spoke, and all things came into existence. He made the heavens and the earth; the land and the seas; plants and animals; and finally humans! What did God do on the seventh day? Let’s read and find out.

Read Genesis 2:2-3.

• **Say:** What did God do on the seventh day? He rested! God blessed the seventh day, making it a special day of rest. This day was so special that God made a law about what to do to keep it holy.

Read Exodus 20:8-11.

• **Say:** What was God’s commandment about the Sabbath? That’s right, the people were to rest on this day. They were to work hard for six days during the week, but on the seventh day they were to rest. The people were to worship God and remember all the ways He provided for them. Not working on the Sabbath was a way of showing their trust that God would take care of them.

• Fast forward many hundreds of years and we meet the Pharisees in Matthew 12. They were the religious leaders, and they were good at keeping all the rules. They loved rules so much they even came up with extra ones to follow! They had a lot of rules about the Sabbath, too. Let’s see how they responded to Jesus.

## JESUS HEALED ON THE SABBATH BASED ON MATTHEW 12:1-14

Read Matthew 12:1-3, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses.

- Jesus and His disciples were walking through a field of grain. They were hungry so they picked some of the heads of grain to eat. When the Pharisees (religious leaders) saw this, they rebuked Jesus, saying that His disciples were breaking the Jewish law by picking grain on the Sabbath. Jesus responded by reminding the Pharisees about the time King David was in the house of God, hiding from his enemies, and he was allowed to eat the special bread that was reserved only for the priests. Then Jesus said something very interesting.

Read Matthew 12:6-8, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses.

- Ask:** Who did Jesus say He—the Son of Man—is? (The Lord of the Sabbath)
- Jesus told the Pharisees that He is Lord of the Sabbath. That means He's in charge! The Pharisees believed it was their job to enforce God's law in the Old Testament. Jesus was explaining that He makes the rules. Because He is God the Son, He is the lawgiver. Jesus was identifying Himself as God.
- While the Pharisees were so concerned about following the law down to the tiniest detail, they forgot why God had given them the Sabbath in the first place. They had forgotten that obedience to God's laws comes from a deep love for God and gratitude toward Him. The Sabbath was meant to be a day of resting and relying on the Lord. The Pharisees had turned something meant to be a gift into a burden for the people. Let's keep reading and find out what happens next.

Read Matthew 12:9-10, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses.

- Ask:** What question did the Pharisees ask Jesus on this Sabbath day? (Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?)
- Once again the Pharisees wanted to trap Jesus. They asked Jesus if it was lawful for people to heal on the Sabbath. They must have thought that healing was a lot like working. Jesus turned their question back to them.

Read Matthew 12:11-14, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses.

- Jesus asked if someone had a sheep that had fallen into a pit on the Sabbath, wouldn't they save their sheep? Jesus explained that people are worth far more than sheep. If someone would rescue his animal on the Sabbath, how much more lawful is it to do good toward someone. To prove His point, Jesus healed the man with the shriveled hand. Jesus showed the people that He has authority over the law because He is the lawgiver. The Pharisees hated Jesus and began plotting about having Him killed because He proclaimed that He is the Messiah.
- Ask:** Do you think God cares more about outward actions or inward motivations?
- God has given us rules to follow because He knows how life works best. He cares about our obedience to Him, but God cares even more about the motivation or attitude behind our actions. God wants us to love Him with our whole hearts. Our obedience to His law comes from the overflow of our love for Him.

## GOING DEEPER

- **Say: Jesus has authority over the law and came to fulfill the law.** When God gave Moses the law for the Israelites to follow He knew that they wouldn't be able to obey it perfectly. The law points us to our need for Jesus. Only Jesus is able to perfectly obey and fulfill the law in a way that we never could. So, when we give our lives to Jesus, He gives us His obedience. That means when God looks at us, He sees the perfection of Jesus, and our sin is forgiven.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- What did the Pharisees criticize Jesus' disciples for doing? (They were picking heads of grain to eat on the Sabbath.)
- Jesus said He is Lord of the \_\_\_\_\_. (Sabbath)
- What is the purpose of the Sabbath? (The Sabbath is a day of rest, worship, and remembering God's provision)

### Older Kids

- How did Jesus prove He is Lord of the Sabbath? (Jesus healed the man's hand on the Sabbath.)
- What are some ways you celebrate the Sabbath with your family? (Answers will vary but may include: going to church, resting from school and chores, not watching screens, and so forth.)
- One of the Ten Commandments says to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Why do you think it's important for us to reserve time each week for rest and worship? (Answers will vary but may include: we need to remember what is most important and worship God, rest helps us depend on God, and so forth.)

Explain that God rested on day 7 after He created the world. This day is known as the Sabbath, God and commanded His people to rest. Today, Christians rest, worship, and remember what Jesus has done on Sunday, the first day of the week, to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Guide kids to turn to the back of their activity pages to complete "What Does it Mean" and solve the word puzzle.

Discuss how the Sabbath was a day of rest set apart by God. Sabbath was meant to be a day to rest, worship God, and remember His provision. Remind TeamKIDs that Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. **Jesus has authority over the law and came to fulfill the law.** When we love God, we naturally want to live in a way that honors Him. When we recognize the wonderful gift He has given us, we start to understand that we owe our whole lives to Him in thankfulness!

## PRAY

Lead the kids in prayer. Thank God for the gift of eternal life when we believe in Jesus. Ask Him to help us trust Him and tell others about Jesus this week.



## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: QUIET ORDER

*Provide: Paper plates (1 per TeamKID) with one word of the Key Verse written on each plate (make duplicates as needed): Truly I tell you, anyone who believes has eternal life. (John 6:47)*

- Read through the Key Verse several times to help the kids begin to learn it. Then give each kid a paper plate with a word of the verse on it. Instruct them that the challenge is to put themselves in the correct verse order, but they cannot speak! Time them to see how fast they can do it. Then, switch around the plates so each kid has a different word and do the activity a second time.
- Our verse reminds us that anyone who believes in Jesus has eternal life in Him. Salvation doesn't come from obeying God's law perfectly or doing all the things on a checklist. God does care about what we do, but He cares even more about the kind of people we are. God wants our hearts to love Him. Our obedience to Him is how we respond to His love.

### OPTION 2: GUESS WHO I AM

*Provide: "Guess Who I Am Clues" (item 35) (1 per TeamKID), paper or mini dry erase boards, markers (erasers if using dry erase)*

- Instruct the kids to find a partner and give each pair a piece of paper and a marker or a mini dry erase board, marker, and eraser. Explain that one TeamKID will give her partner clues about people in the Bible and he or she will try to guess who the clue is describing. TeamKIDs will get a point for each correct answer.
- Distribute column one of the "Guess Who I Am Clues" to each pair. When TeamKIDs have guessed all of the people in the clues provided, play a second round with additional clues from column two of the printable. Allow pairs to switch places.
- Remind kids the more we read the Bible, the more we will understand about how each story fits together to tell the larger story of who God is and what He is doing.

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: Two water bottles, one with dirty water and one with clean water, small cups (1 per TeamKID), "How to Send Relief" missions video*

- **Say:** Let's learn more about some of the people around the world who need our help and need to know about the eternal life that Jesus brings. As you watch, look for ways you think we could help the people you see.

Play the video, then ask kids to describe some of the ways they think they could help. What could they do for people who do not have clean water? How could they help someone whose house was destroyed? How could they serve someone without food?

Distribute the cups and tell kids you will give them each a sip of water. Walk around and ask kids which water they would like to drink. Even if they think they want to taste the dirty water, remind them that it will make them sick! Pour a sip of clean water in each cup and drink together.

- **Say:** We can be so thankful that we have clean water to drink. Let's remember that some people don't have clean water and we can help them. When you take a drink of water this week, ask God how you might be able to help. God might even want you to be a missionary one day.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: KNOT SO FAST (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 31)

*No supplies needed.*

- Lead TeamKIDS to form teams of equal players. The players stand in a circle and each kid holds the wrists of two different players who are not standing next to her. They are now in a knot. The teams race each other to see who can become untangled the fastest. If played with only one group, give kids 5 to 10 minutes to straighten out their knot.
- Debrief: Remind TeamKIDS that Jesus taught about faith, trust and obedience to God. **Jesus has authority over the law and came to fulfill the law.** As we follow Jesus, we can continue and not give up because we know Jesus is with us, and He cares for us.

### CAPTAIN'S ORDERS (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 44)

*No supplies needed.*

- Choose one kid to be the “captain.” She will stand at the front of the room with the rest of the kids facing her. The captain will call out commands and the kids will do the associated movement. Challenge the kids to obey the commands as quickly as possible. For an added challenge, when a kid does the wrong movement, she is out until the next round. The last kid standing is the winner.
- Debrief: Explain that it took a lot of concentration to obey all those commands! This was a silly game about following directions, but in our story we learned that the Pharisees were really concerned about people obeying all of the extra laws they had created. We also learned that Jesus has authority over the law and came to fulfill the law. God wants us to love Him and love others. While we know we can’t obey God’s law perfectly, we trust that Jesus gives us His perfect obedience and righteousness when we follow Him.

### MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, AND JOHN (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 45)

*No supplies needed.*

- Instruct players to sit in a circle. Choose a player to be Matthew. The kid to his right is Mark, the next kid is Luke, and the fourth kid is John. Continue, numbering the rest of the kids starting with 1. Once all of the players know their name or number, explain the game. You will start a simple rhythm of slap (hit your legs), clap (clap your hands) right (snap with your right hand), and left (snap with your left hand.) Practice this rhythm several times until everyone can do it together. “Matthew” will be the first to start the game. As all the kids are doing the rhythm he will say, “Mathew” while completing the rhythm, “to” while repeating the rhythm, and “7” on the third repetition. The kid with the number 7 will be the next to go. She will then say “7” (complete rhythm), “to” (repeat), “Luke” (repeat). The kids will continue passing the rhythm from one kid to another until all the kids have had a turn. They will have to pay close attention to when their names or numbers are called!
- Debrief: Share that TeamKIDS have been learning from the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Explain that these four books are in the New Testament and tell the story of Jesus’ life and ministry. These books help us understand that Jesus is the promised Messiah God sent to rescue the world from sin.

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: "Questions with Kids" slide*

Display the "Questions with Kids" slide. Remind kids that Jesus has authority over the Law because He is God the Son.

- **Ask:** How did Jesus come to fulfill the law?

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today's study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today's activity page.

- **Say:** Sometimes it's easy to follow a checklist of things to do that we think will please God. But, we also need to ask ourselves if we are doing those things with the right attitude. How do you approach your time in prayer with God? Is it something you look forward to, or do you do it just because someone told you to? God cares about our hearts more than our outward behavior. He wants us to love Him because He is God and He alone deserves our worship. So this week when you pray or read your Bible or do something kind for someone else, ask God to help you do it with a joyful heart that loves Him.

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, "Key Verse" slide*

Lead TeamKIDs to read today's Key Verse together.

- **Say:** Everything that we do should be motivated by love for God and others because of what Jesus has done for us. Jesus is gentle and came to provide rest for us. He lived the perfect life that we were unable to live. Then, He died the death that we deserve, and He rose from the grave to prove He has victory over sin and death. He gives us eternal life when we trust in Him, and He gives us the power to live a life that honors God.

### PRAY

Thank God for giving us His Word and for showing us who He is through the Bible. Ask Him to help us love Him and love others.

### DISMISS

*Provide: "Unit 2 Parent Connections" (item 27, dry erase board and marker)*

Ask kids to create a list of talents or skills that people might have. Write the ideas on the board. Some examples are playing tennis, drawing, speaking another language, and math. Also include things that Jesus was able to do. You should have at least as many ideas as there are kids present.

Form two teams. Choose one kid to come up front and choose a skill. The teams will ask yes or no questions to guess which skill she chose. Remind TeamKIDs that Jesus has power over creation because He is God the Son. He was able to perform incredible miracles because He is the Messiah, the Promised One.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and a Parent Connection.

## SESSION 17

# THE SOWER

**TODAY'S POINT: JESUS RECEIVED DIFFERENT RESPONSES FROM PEOPLE ABOUT WHO HE IS.**

### BIBLE STORY

The Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:4-15)

### KEY VERSE

Truly I tell you, anyone who believes has eternal life. John 6:47

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 27).

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 2 slide
- ☐ Session 17 slide
- ☐ Unit 2 Countdown Video

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### GOOD SOIL

- ☐ Small plastic cups (1 per child)
- ☐ Flower seeds
- ☐ Potting soil
- ☐ Permanent markers
- ☐ Tablecloth

#### TIC-TAC-TOE TRIVIA

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ "Bible Trivia" (item 36)
- ☐ Dry erase board with tic-tac-toe board drawn
- ☐ Dry erase marker

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "How to Send Relief" missions video
- ☐ "Send Relief Helps People" (item 37)
- ☐ Modeling clay
- ☐ Poster board

### GAMES

#### KNOT SO FAST (PLAYBOOK, P 31)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

#### SAVE THE SEEDS (PLAYBOOK, P 46)

- ☐ Hula hoop
- ☐ Several beanbags

#### DETECTIVE (PLAYBOOK, P 47)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 2 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ "The Gospel: God's Plan for Me" poster (item 10) or slide
- ☐ "Unit 2 Parent Connections" (item 27)



# LEADER DEVOTION

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## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Luke 8:4-15 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

Jesus used parables to teach things about God's kingdom that may have been difficult to understand. This parable of the sower and the soils is an important reminder that people have different responses to the gospel message. Some reject Jesus. Others repent and respond in sincere faith. Still others hear and are interested in what Jesus has to say, but they quickly care more about their current circumstances and believe Jesus is not worth the cost of following Him.

As you prepare to teach kids, consider how faith is a gift from God. Jesus said in John 6:44: "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him." God is the One who tills the soil of our hearts. He is the One who gives us the faith we need to reach out to Him. Thank Him for this gift of faith, and pray for the kids you will teach as you point them to Jesus and encourage them to respond to Him in faith.

## CONSIDER

- Consider your own heart. How do you often respond to Jesus when He asks something of you?
- How have you seen different responses to the gospel? Who do you need to pray for who has not yet responded to Jesus in repentance and faith?
- What evidence do you see in yourself that reminds you of God's work in your life?

## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: WOULD YOU RATHER (5–10 MINUTES)

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video to get started.

Explain that TeamKIDs will listen to the options, choose what option they like best, and run to the designated side of the room for either option one or option two.

Read from the following list of options or create your own.

Would you rather...

- have a pet panda or zebra?
- be a master painter or incredible dancer?
- have the ability to control the weather or be able to talk to animals?
- be invisible or be able to fly?
- not be allowed to watch TV for a year or not be allowed to eat any candy for a year?
- be able to read minds or be invisible?
- go to the doctor or the dentist?
- be able to live 100 years in the past or 100 years in the future?
- moo like a cow at the end of every sentence, or bark like a dog?
- take a trip to the mountains or the beach?
- discover a hidden treasure or find a living dinosaur?
- go to the movies or to a water park?

**Say:** You had different responses to the options listed. Some of you were excited about finding a treasure, and some of you really wanted to see a living dinosaur. Today we’re going to hear a story about how people have different responses to Jesus. We will learn that **Jesus received different responses from people about who He is**. Let’s get ready to hear more from God’s Word.

### BIBLE STUDY: THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 37 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

**Say:** The Bible comes from God. In it we learn who He is and what He has done for us. As Jesus lived on earth and ministered to people, He displayed His power to help people recognize that He is God the Son. Jesus also taught people about God and His kingdom, but people did not always respond to Jesus in the same way. Today, we are going to study a parable that Jesus taught people. A parable is a story that Jesus told to help people understand the kingdom of God. In this story, Jesus helped people understand that the gospel, the good news about Jesus, is only good news to people who respond in faith. Just because people hear the good news doesn’t mean they will always respond in the same way. Let’s open our Bibles to the Gospel of Luke, chapter 8, and find out more.

While you teach about the four soils, hold up an appropriate picture that you’ve found online to give the kids a good visual of what you are talking about. Utilize slides as needed.

**DEFINE IT: PARABLE**—a story Jesus told to help people understand the kingdom of God

## THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER BASED ON LUKE 8:4-15

Read Luke 8:4-8, or invite several TeamKIDs to read these verses.

• **Ask:** What were the four types of soil where the seed was scattered? (path, rock, thorns, and good ground)

• Jesus told a large crowd of people about a sower and his seed. Jesus explained that the sower went out to plant his seed, and he received a lot of different types of outcomes. The seed that fell along the path was trampled on, and birds ate the seed. Other seed was planted among rocks, and it died because there was no water to nourish it. Still, other seed fell among the thorns. The thorns grew with the seed and choked the seed until it died. Then, there was some seed that fell on good ground. It grew and produced lots of fruit.

Read Luke 8:9, or invite a TeamKID to read this verse.

• **Ask:** Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus what this story meant? (They did not understand Jesus' teaching.)

• You may have guessed already, but this parable isn't really talking about farmers and seeds. The disciples knew Jesus wasn't talking only about planting seed, but they didn't fully understand His teaching. Jesus explained how each part of the story represented something else. The sower represents God and the seed represents the Word of God, the message of God's kingdom. The soils represent different responses people have to the gospel message. (Lead TeamKIDs to match these elements in their activity books.)

Read Luke 8:11-15, or invite several TeamKIDs to read these verses.

• Jesus received different responses from people about who He is. Sometimes people responded like the seed scattered on the path. They heard the gospel and they immediately rejected it.

• Sometimes people responded like the seed scattered among the rocky soil. They heard the gospel message and they listened to it, but as soon as it became inconvenient for them to follow Jesus, they turned away.

• Sometimes people responded to Jesus like the seed scattered among thorns. The seed among the thorns was choked and couldn't continue growing.

• Finally, sometimes people responded to Jesus like seeds planted in good, rich soil. They received the good news about Jesus, believed in Him, and pointed others to Him. (Lead TeamKIDs to match these elements in their activity books.)

Read Luke 8:10, or invite a TeamKID to read this verse.

• One question that the disciples asked is why Jesus taught in parables. It's a question you might ask today as well. Thankfully for us, Jesus gave us the answer right here in this passage. He told the disciples He taught in parables so that only some people would understand the message of the kingdom of God. Not everyone was willing to truly listen to what Jesus had to say. Some people followed Him to see Him perform miracles as if they were magic tricks, but they weren't really interested in giving their lives to Him. Not everyone who followed Jesus really loved Him and believed what He taught.

## GOING DEEPER

- **Say:** Jesus received different responses from people about who He is. Even today, people respond differently to the message of the gospel. Some people turn away from it immediately.
- Others believe for a little while but don't really grow in their faith and eventually fall away from following Jesus. Sometimes people want to believe but they are more concerned about other things and don't make time for God. Still others will hear the gospel and believe it and will bear fruit (or show with their lives evidence) that comes from knowing Jesus.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- What are the four types of soil Jesus mentioned in this parable? (path, rocky ground, among thorns, and good, rich soil)
- What did the seed represent in the story? (the message of the kingdom of God)

### Older Kids

- What are some reasons that someone might fall away from trusting in Jesus? (Lead TeamKIDs to discuss their answers, such as difficult circumstances or they don't think they need Jesus in their lives.)
- How do people respond to Jesus when their hearts are like the good, rich soil? (Lead TeamKIDs to discuss their answers. Be prepared to share the gospel or encourage TeamKIDs to share the gospel plan with one another.)
- How do we know what type of "soil" our hearts are? (We can look at the fruit or evidence in our lives.)

## CONNECT

- **Say:** The message of the gospel is for everyone. No matter the response, everyone who hears the gospel has an opportunity to turn away from sin and turn to God in faith. Sadly, many people choose to reject Jesus, but the life Jesus offers us is so much better than anything we can imagine. When we decide to trust Jesus with our lives, God works in our hearts to make us more like Jesus. We get to be part of God's family and get to join in the work of building His kingdom here and now!

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

If time allows, encourage kids to complete the "Responding to Jesus" activity on the back of their activity pages, or encourage them to complete this at home with an adult.

- **Say:** The most important question you will ever have to answer is this: how will I respond to Jesus? Jesus is truly the Son of God and He has the power to rescue you from sin and bring you into God's family forever. When you respond to Jesus by giving Him your life and following Him, you become part of God's kingdom!

## PRAY

Pray for TeamKIDs, or invite a child who volunteers to pray. Thank God for teaching us about the good news of the gospel. Ask God to help TeamKIDs understand and respond in faith and trust in who Jesus is and choose to follow Him with their whole lives.



## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: GOOD SOIL

*Provide: Small plastic cups (1 per child), flower seeds, potting soil, permanent markers, tablecloth*

- Review the Key Verse several times with the class. Pass out markers and plastic cups, and guide the kids to write the verse on their cups. Then, assist kids in filling their cups with the potting soil and scattering a few seeds in them.
- Share how Jesus received different responses from people about who He is. He said that people who believe in Him are like seeds planted in good, rich soil. That's the kind of people we want to be! Remind kids to keep practicing the Key Verse this week and to remember that God invites them to respond to Him with faith! Say that when a person does this, He gives them eternal life.

### OPTION 2: TIC-TAC-TOE TRIVIA

*Provide: Bibles, "Bible Trivia" (item 36), Dry erase board with tic-tac-toe board drawn, and dry erase marker*

- Form two groups (x's and o's). Read the Bible trivia questions to each group. If the group gets the correct answer, group members get to place their "x" or "o" on the tic-tac-toe board. Play several rounds as time allows.
- Share how there are many stories in the Bible that all tell one big story of who God is and what He is doing in the world. God created everything, including you and me. When Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, sin entered the world, and every humans' relationship with God was broken. The Bible tells us God's plan to bring us back to Him through Jesus. Jesus took our sin upon Himself and died on the cross, a punishment we deserve. When we respond to Him in faith, He forgives our sin and welcomes us into His kingdom. Each part of the Bible points us to Jesus, our true Savior and King.

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: "Send Relief Helps People" (item 37), modeling clay (per TeamKID), poster board with rows drawn to look like gardening rows*

Show the photos and ask for volunteers to read the captions.

- **Say:** Send Relief is helping many people with the things they need. Some of the people who get help hear about Jesus for the very first time. Missionaries who work with Send Relief have gospel conversations with people. They tell people that Jesus is the one who provides the things we need.

Consider reviewing the "How to Send Relief" video from session 16.

Put the modeling clay in a location where kids can easily reach it. Invite kids to make a vegetable out of the clay and add it to the garden rows on the poster board. For each vegetable that is added, discuss a prayer request for people in need around the world. Take time to pray for those needs, asking kids to volunteer to voice a prayer aloud. Be sure to pray that people in need will choose to follow Jesus.

- **Say:** When we take time to pray for people to hear about and trust in Jesus, we are on mission with Jesus. That's what He wants for the whole world.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: KNOT SO FAST (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 31)

*No supplies needed.*

- Lead TeamKIDS to form teams of equal players. The players stand in a circle and each kid holds the wrists of two different players who are not standing next to her. They are now in a knot. The teams race each other to see who can become untangled the fastest. If played with only one group, give kids 5 to 10 minutes to straighten out their knot.
- Debrief: Remind TeamKIDS that Jesus taught about faith, trust, and obedience to God. As we follow Jesus, we can continue and not give up because we know Jesus is with us, and He cares for us.

### SAVE THE SEEDS (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 46)

*Provide: Hula hoop, several beanbags*

- Place the hoop in the middle of the room with the bean bags (the “seeds”) inside it. Choose one kid to be the “farmer.” She must protect the seeds from the rest of the kids. The rest of the group will try to get the seeds out of the hoop without being tagged by the farmer. If a kid is tagged, he must sit out.
- Ask: “Was it hard to guard all those seeds when you were the farmer?”
- Debrief: Explain that in the parable of the soils, Jesus said that sometimes the farmer would scatter seed on the path where birds would snatch it up before it could take root. When we receive the message of the gospel there are some things we can do to protect the faith God gives us. We can pray, read our Bibles, and come to church so we can continue to learn from God’s Word and be encouraged by other Christians!

### DETECTIVE (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 47)

*No supplies needed.*

- Choose one kid to be the detective and have him leave the room for a few moments. The rest of the kids in the class will each do something to change his appearance in some way. The detective will come back and try to figure out what things are different. He will get a point for each difference he spots. Continue playing until everyone has had a turn to be the detective.
- Debrief: Share how TeamKIDS all did a great job of spotting the differences in people’s appearances. Explain that detectives have to use clues and evidence to solve a case. In a similar way, we can look for evidence in our lives that we have put our faith in Jesus. That evidence is fruit! Not literal fruit like grapes and apples, but spiritual fruit, like what we read about in Galatians 5:22-23. Does anyone remember the fruit of the Spirit? (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.)

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: "Questions with Kids" slide*

Display the "Questions with Kids" slide. Remind kids that **Jesus received different responses from people about who He is.**

- **Ask:** How does God want us to respond to the good news about Jesus?

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today's study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today's activity page.

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, "Key Verse" slide, "The Gospel: God's Plan for Me" poster (item 10) or slide*

Read today's Key Verse with TeamKIDs and explain its meaning. Display "The Gospel: God's Plan for Me" slide and walk through the main points. Remind kids that the gospel is good news, but it is only good for those who respond to Jesus in faith. Invite any kids who have questions about responding to the gospel to talk with you or another trusted leader at the end of the session.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!

- **Say:** It has been so much fun learning from God's Word with you all today. Jesus told many parables as a way of explaining something about God's kingdom. Today we learned that not everyone responds to Jesus in the same way. As you leave today, think about what your own response is to Jesus. Have you put your faith and trust in Him already? If not, are you ready to put your faith in Him? Do you have more questions about what it means to be a Christian? Consider these things, and ask God to show you when you are ready to respond to Him in faith. If you've already responded to Jesus in faith, think about how you can pray and share the good news of the gospel with others, so they can respond, too!

### PRAY

Thank God for giving us His Word and for allowing us to know Him through the Bible. Ask Him to bless these kids and give them hearts that respond to Jesus in faith.

### DISMISS:

*Provide: "Unit 2 Parent Connections"*

Instruct kids to sit or stand in a circle. Explain that the group will play a Bible alphabet game. The first TeamKID will say something Bible-related that begins with the letter A (example: Abraham). The next kid will repeat the first word then add a word that starts with B (example: Believe). Continue around the circle until the whole alphabet has been used. Allow kids who are unsure of a word to use to pass or ask another TeamKID for help.

Remind kids that the whole Bible is true and teaches us about God and His kingdom.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and a Parent Connection.

## SESSION 18

# THE SON OF GOD

**TODAY'S POINT: JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD, AND NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH HIM.**

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**BIBLE STORY** Jesus Fed 5,000 and Walked on Water (John 6:1-59)

### KEY VERSE

Truly I tell you, anyone who believes has eternal life. John 6:47

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 27).

## AT A GLANCE

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### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Unit 2 slide
- ☐ Session 18 slide
- ☐ Unit 2 Countdown Video

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### KEY VERSE MIX UP

- ☐ Sticky notes
- ☐ Marker

#### NEW TESTAMENT TOSS

- ☐ Beach ball
- ☐ "Books of the Bible Poster" (item 9)

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Haun Family Photos" (item 38)
- ☐ "World Map" (item 8)

### GAMES

#### KNOT SO FAST (PLAYBOOK, P 31)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

#### TELEPHONE PICTIONARY (PLAYBOOK, P 48)

- ☐ Paper (small pieces)
- ☐ Markers for each kid

#### B.E.L.I.E.V.E BALL (PLAYBOOK, P 49)

- ☐ Small balls (1 per team)

### CLOSING

- ☐ Unit 2 "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ 2 large pieces of paper
- ☐ Markers
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ "Unit 2 Parent Connections" (item 27)



# LEADER DEVOTION

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## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read John 6:1-21 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

In John 6 we encounter two more of Jesus' miracles: the feeding of the 5,000 and Jesus walking on water. Notice in the feeding of the 5,000 that Jesus invited His disciples to be part of the miracle. They brought the meager five loaves and two fish to Jesus and watched first hand while He multiplied the food before their eyes. Then, they were tasked with passing out the feast to all the people and picking up twelve baskets of leftovers. Jesus often invites us to participate in the work He is doing in the world today. We get to be witnesses to what He is doing in our own lives and the lives of others.

Today you will teach kids that **Jesus is the Son of God and nothing is impossible with Him.** As you prepare to teach the kids this week, pray and ask God to show you His power over creation and over your own life. Remind kids that Jesus displayed His power so that others would recognize that He is God the Son and that He fulfilled promises that God said were true of the Promised One.

## CONSIDER

- Consider your own life and the circumstances you are facing right now. Where do you see God at work in your life? How is He growing your faith?
- How is God inviting you to participate in the work He is doing right now? Have you responded in faith and obedience?

## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: SWITCH IT UP (5–10 MINUTES)

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video.

Instruct the kids to line up on one side of the room. Select one TeamKID to stand in the middle as the tagger. Explain that you will read a statement and TeamKIDs will switch sides of the room if that statement is true for them. The goal is to make it to the opposite side of the room without getting tagged. Any TeamKIDs who are tagged must return to the same side without switching.

Example statements:

- Switch sides if you have more than 2 siblings.
- Switch sides if you have a pet. (If you switched sides tell someone your pet’s name).
- Switch sides if you prefer summer over winter.
- Switch sides if you are going on vacation this year. (If you switched sides, tell someone where you are going.)
- Switch sides if you were named after someone. (If you switched sides, tell someone whom you were named after.)
- Switch sides if you play a sport. (If you switched sides, tell someone what sport you play.)
- Switch sides if you have been in an airplane.
- Switch sides if you were born in a different state than where you currently live. (If you switched sides, tell someone where you were born.)

• **Say:** That was fun! Did you learn anything new about someone in our group? Every time we meet together here we have an opportunity to learn something new about Jesus and about ourselves. We have been studying about the King’s power—miracles and teachings of Jesus that helped people understand that He is the promised King of God’s kingdom. We have heard about many miracles He performed that show that He is truly the Son of God. Today we will hear about two more miracles that Jesus performed.

### BIBLE STUDY: JESUS FED 5,000 AND WALKED ON WATER (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 39 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

• **Say:** The good news of the gospel is that Jesus came to provide eternal life for everyone who believes in Him for salvation. Eternal life seems like a big word, but it just means life with God forever. God’s kingdom is forever, and He wants us to be part of it. The only way that we can be part of God’s kingdom is if Someone made a way for us to have a relationship with God. Jesus came to teach about God’s kingdom, and then make the way for people to be part of God’s kingdom forever.

Consider marking Bible passages for kids to read during Bible study. Utilize slides as needed.

**DEFINE IT: ETERNAL LIFE**—life with God forever

• **Say:** Eternal life with God may seem impossible, but Jesus came to help us see that nothing is impossible with Him. Today’s Bible study comes from the book of John. Let’s read about how Jesus helps us know who He is and why we can trust Him.

## JESUS FED 5,000 AND WALKED ON WATER BASED ON JOHN 6:1-59

Read John 6:1-9.

- Jesus was in a remote place teaching and healing the people who came to Him.
- The people were hungry and there was no food to eat. Jesus asked Philip, one of the disciples, where they could buy bread for the people. Philip responded that 200 denarii (or more than 8 months worth of someone's money) was not enough money to feed all of the people. But, Jesus knew already what He was going to do. Jesus never asked His disciples to do something He himself wasn't capable of doing. What Jesus really wanted was for His disciples to trust Him to do the work.
- Let's read what Jesus did.

Read John 6:10-15, or invite several TeamKIDs to read these verses.

- Ask:** How did Jesus feed more than 5,000 people? How much food was left over? (Jesus gave thanks and passed out the food. The food multiplied and no one ran out. There were 12 baskets.)
- Jesus gave thanks and broke the bread. As the bread and fish were passed around, the people never ran out of food. In fact, there was even food left over. In the Old Testament, God sent manna from heaven to feed the Israelites. They ate it every day for 40 years until they finally entered the Promised Land. When the people saw this miracle of Jesus, so many people with bread, they proclaimed that this was the Prophet who was promised to come into the world. Many people saw this sign and understood that Jesus is the Promised One—the Son of God. Let's read about another sign that Jesus gave to show He is the Messiah.

Read John 6:16-21.

- Right after Jesus fed more than 5,000 people, He sent His disciples out on the lake in a boat. He went up on the mountain to spend time alone with His heavenly Father. Then, Jesus walked on the water to the disciples while they were still in the boat on the lake. When the disciples saw Him coming they were afraid. Jesus told them who He was and encouraged them not to be afraid. This sign and the feeding of the crowds are both examples of Jesus' deity (what it means to be God) as God the Son. Only God could do the things Jesus did.
- The crowds who had been fed by Jesus the night before searched until they found Jesus and the disciples on the other side of the sea in Capernaum. The people demanded to see even more signs from Jesus.

Read John 6:26-28, or invite a TeamKID to read these verses.

- Jesus told the people that they should not crave physical food that would leave them hungry again. Instead, Jesus had something even better to offer. Food only satisfies for a little while, and then we are hungry again. Jesus came to satisfy our deepest spiritual need—forgiveness from sin and restoration to God.

Read John 6:32-35.

- Ask:** What did Jesus say about Himself? (I am the Bread of Life.)
- Jesus said that He is the Bread of Life. He is the Messiah, the Son of God, and He came to give people eternal life with God. These signs and miracles of Jesus were meant to show people that Jesus is God the Son, so that they may believe in Him and have eternal life through Him.

## GOING DEEPER

- **Say:** We have learned over the last few weeks that Jesus has authority over all creation. He can calm storms, heal sickness, bring people back from the dead, multiply loaves of bread, and stand on top of water. **Jesus is the Son of God, and nothing is impossible with Him.** All of these miracles point to Jesus' power and show us that He truly is God's Son. The miracles we have learned about today show us how God provided for people's physical needs. God also provides for our greatest spiritual need: to be forgiven for our sin and brought back into a relationship with Him. Jesus did that when He died on the cross for our sin and was raised to life again, promising that we too will one day be raised to live forever with God.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- How did Jesus feed 5,000 people? How is this miracle similar to what God did for the Israelites in the wilderness? (He multiplied the bread and fish. God supplied bread for the Israelites in the wilderness.)
- What did Jesus tell the disciples when they saw Him walking on the water? (He told them to have courage, to not be afraid.)

### Older Kids

- Have you ever been afraid? What did you do? What do you think this story teaches us about what we should do when we are scared? (Help kids understand that we can put our hope in God when we are afraid. Even when we feel like our circumstances are out of control, we can trust that God is in complete control of everything. Nothing is impossible with Him.)
- When God does something in your life (helps you through a hard time, blesses you in some way) how do you respond? (Answers will vary. Lead TeamKIDS to discuss how we can respond in worship and thankfulness to God.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDS are together, consider forming two groups.

If time allows, encourage kids to complete the "Study a Bible Verse: John 6:47" activity, or encourage them to complete this at home with an adult.

- **Say:** The story of Jesus feeding 5,000 people reminds us that **Jesus is the Son of God and nothing is impossible with Him.** Jesus invited the disciples to be part of the miracles He did. In a similar way, Jesus invites us to participate with Him in the work He is doing in the world.

## PRAY

Lead TeamKIDS to pray, thanking God for sending Jesus, God the Son, to take the punishment for our sin so we could have eternal life.



## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: KEY VERSE MIX UP

*Provide: Sticky notes with one or more words of John 6:47 written on each note (enough for each kid in one group), marker*

- Form two groups. Put one sticky note on the back of each kid in one group. Instruct them to stand in a line, out of order, at the front of the room. The kids without sticky notes will take turns moving one person at a time to get the verse in the correct order. Allow TeamKIDS to switch places and play again.
- Share that there are many ways to study the Bible. One way is to spend some time reading and thinking about one verse. Share that this verse reminds us that anyone who believes that Jesus is God the Son and puts their faith in Him can have eternal life. We don't have to work to try and earn God's love. The Bible tells us that God loved us even when we were still sinners. God loves us so much that He was willing to die for our sin so we could be saved and have eternal life. What an incredible gift!

### OPTION 2: NEW TESTAMENT TOSS

*Provide: "Books of the Bible Poster" (item 9), beach ball*

- Display the poster and review the names of New Testament books. Instruct the kids to line up in two lines facing each other. Give the first kid in one line a beach ball. Explain that she will say the first book of the New Testament (Matthew), then toss the ball to the kid across from her then move to the back of the line. He will say the next book (Mark) before tossing it across to the next kid in line. Continue this way until all the New Testament books have been named. Allow TeamKIDS to refer to the poster as needed.
- Explain that some of the books of the Bible can be hard to remember! It's important for us to know the Bible books. Knowing where the books are in our Bibles helps us study. Our faith is built on the truth that we read in the Bible, so we need to know what it says and how to find the right books, chapters, and verses we are studying.

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: "Haun Family Photos" (item 38), "World Map" (item 8)*

Display the photos and invite a volunteer to read the captions. Ask another volunteer to find Ghana on the "World Map" (item 8).

- **Say:** Heidi Haun is a surgeon, but she's also a missionary in Ghana with her husband, William. Her medical work is very important, but she knows the most important thing is for people to hear about the Son of God. She gets to share Bible stories and pray with people at the hospital. William teaches the Bible and shares stories about the work of missionaries around the world.

Read the following list of people on the mission field who serve as healthcare professionals. Ask kids to stand up if they hear something they might like to be one day. You might need to provide brief descriptions or ask kids what they think that person does: surgeon, doctor, nurse, pharmacist, physical therapist, dentist.

- **Say:** These are just a few of the healthcare jobs you might be interested in doing one day but you don't have to wait until you are older to make a difference. God can use you right now!

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### UNIT GAME: KNOT SO FAST (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 31)

*No supplies needed.*

- Lead TeamKIDs to form teams of equal players. The players stand in a circle and each kid holds the wrists of two different players who are not standing next to her. They are now in a knot. The teams race each other to see who can become untangled the fastest. If played with only one group, give kids 5 to 10 minutes to straighten out their knot.
- Debrief: Remind TeamKIDs that Jesus taught about faith, trust, and obedience to God. As we follow Jesus, we can continue and not give up because we know Jesus is with us, and He cares for us.

### TELEPHONE Pictionary (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 48)

*Provide: Paper (small pieces), markers for each kid*

- Form teams of eight to ten players each, and direct the teams to sit in circles. Give each player a pen and a stack of small pieces of paper that are equal to the number of players on the team. Instruct the players to think of a word, phrase, or sentence that incorporates something they have heard about or learned over the last few weeks. The players will then pass their stack of paper to the next player who will read what the first player wrote, then move the top paper to the bottom of the stack. The second player will then draw a picture of what the first player wrote. Give the player 1–2 minutes to draw, then instruct him to pass his stack again to the next player. The players will look at the drawings, then write a word, phrase, or sentence describing the picture they see on the next piece of paper, moving the drawing to the bottom. Continue around the circle, alternating between drawing and writing, until the stack gets back to the original player. Allow kids to share how the phrase changed as players drew pictures and wrote what they thought the pictures represented.
- Debrief: Share that we have heard so many incredible stories of what Jesus did during His life and ministry on earth. We have learned that **Jesus is the Son of God, and nothing is impossible with Him.**

### B.E.L.I.E.V.E BALL (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 49)

*Provide: Small balls (1 per team)*

- Form teams of seven players. Instruct each teams to line up, stretched from one end of the room to the other, leaving plenty of space between players. Give a ball to the first player in each team's line. He will call out "B" then toss to the next kid on his team who will call out "E." She will toss to the next kid in line who will call out "L." The kids will continue down the line until the ball gets to the last player who shouts "E." If the ball is dropped, they must start over. The team to get its ball to the other side first wins. Play several rounds as time allows.
- Debrief: Explain to TeamKIDs that today's Key Verse taught us that if we believe in Jesus, we will have eternal life. Invite TeamKIDs to share what eternal life means (life with God forever). Share how salvation is a gift from God. We don't do anything to earn our salvation. Jesus forgives us of our sins and saves us because He loves us. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross made a way for us to be with God forever when we repent and trust in Him for salvation.

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: "Questions with Kids" slide*

Display the "Questions with Kids" slide. Read John 6:47-48. Share how Jesus proclaimed that He is the bread of life. Ask kids to share what this means?

- **Ask:** Why is this good news?

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today's study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today's activity page.

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, "Key Verse" slide*

Read today's Key Verse and invite TeamKIDs to echo the verse after you.

- **Say:** It has been so fun learning about Jesus' miracles with you. All of these stories show us that
- **Jesus is the Son of God, and nothing is impossible with Him.** Jesus came to provide a way for us
- to be made right with God. We know that because of our sin we are separated from God, but Jesus'
- death on the cross makes it possible for us to be brought back into God's presence and have eternal
- life with God.

### PRAY

Lead the kids in prayer thanking God for our time together today. Ask God to help TeamKIDs believe in Jesus and give thanks to Him for everything He has done.

### DISMISS:

*Provide: "Unit 2 Parent Connections" (item 27), 2 large pieces of paper with "JESUS" and "ME" written in the middle, markers, tape*

Tape the two pieces of craft paper to opposite walls or spread out on the floor. Give kids markers and invite them to decorate the banners with pictures or write things they have learned about Jesus and themselves throughout the last several weeks. Invite the kids to share their ideas with the group.

Remind TeamKIDs that Jesus is the King God promised to send. While He was on earth, Jesus displayed His power through miracles and signs to help people understand that He is the Messiah, the Son of God. He came to pay the punishment for our sin and rise again so that we could have eternal life when we respond to the gospel in repentance and faith.

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and a Parent Connection.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!

# BONUS SESSION 1

## WHO IS JESUS?

**TODAY'S POINT: JESUS IS THE MESSIAH GOD PROMISED TO SEND SO THAT WE WOULD HAVE LIFE WHEN WE BELIEVE IN HIM.**

### BIBLE STORY

The Jesus of the Gospels (John 1:10-13, Luke 1:1-4, Mark 1:1, Matthew 4:12-17)

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 64).

### KEY VERSE

But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name. John 1:12

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Bonus Unit slide
- ☐ Bonus Session 1 slide
- ☐ Unit 1 Countdown Video

- ☐ 6 index cards with one letter of G-O-S-P-E-L written on each card
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### GOSPEL BOOKS POP UP

- ☐ Inflated ball

#### KEY VERSE CIRCLES

- ☐ "Allergy Alert" (item 4)
- ☐ Inflated balloons
- ☐ Timer

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Use Your One Life" missions video
- ☐ Dry erase board
- ☐ Dry erase marker

### GAMES

#### FACE OFF (PLAYBOOK, P 95)

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

#### GOSPEL BOWLING (PLAYBOOK, P 96)

- ☐ Disposable cups
- ☐ Marker
- ☐ Balls

#### FLAGS OF PROMISE (PLAYBOOK, P 97)

- ☐ Strips of paper

### CLOSING

- ☐ Bonus "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ "Key Verse" slide

- ☐ Yarn
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Dry erase board
- ☐ Dry erase marker
- ☐ "Bonus Unit Parent Connections" (item 64)



## LEADER DEVOTION

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### OPEN THE BIBLE

Read John 20:30-31 from your Bible or Bible app.

### STUDY

The four Gospel books all testify of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each book was written by a different person with a different perspective and different intended audiences. Yet, each Gospel book cohesively points to the truth that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. The Gospel of John concludes with the overall intent of John's writings—that we may “believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31).

As you teach this bonus session, take time to help TeamKIDs understand the four different authors and purposes for the Gospel books. Help kids see that God chose to inspire four men to write different accounts of the same story on purpose. The Gospel of Matthew offers a rich compilation of Old Testament prophecies and promises that point to Jesus as the Messiah. Luke explained that the story of Jesus is not just history, but the fulfillment of the story of God for the whole world. Mark began his Gospel book by affirming that Jesus is the Messiah and then centered on the actions and words of Jesus and the people's various responses to the Messiah. John wrote, as you read, that his purpose in writing is so that those who read would believe in Jesus and have life in Him. In all four Gospels, we are given a unique gift of grace as we have the opportunity to believe in Jesus and receive life through Him.

### CONSIDER

- Why is it important that the Gospels are eyewitness testimonies?
- How has this study of the Gospels encouraged you in your faith?

## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: I SPY (5–10 MINUTES)

*Provide: Index cards with G-O-S-P-E-L written on the cards and hidden around the room.*

Welcome TeamKIDS as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video to get started.

Tell kids that you have hidden ten index cards around the room and that you are going to ask for their help to spy the letters on the cards.

Call out one of the cards for the kids to spy. Ask TeamKIDS to raise their hands when they find the card. Then, call on a child to go get the card and bring it to you. Continue calling out cards to spy until all six have been collected. Lead TeamKIDS to put the cards in the correct order to spell GOSPEL.

Introduce today’s Bible study by explaining how they all saw with their eyes each card you called out. Tell TeamKIDS that in today’s Bible study they will learn about how the Gospel books were written by people who saw with their own eyes the things Jesus did or were told by eyewitnesses about Jesus’ life and ministry.

### BIBLE STUDY: THE JESUS OF THE GOSPELS (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 77 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

• **Say:** We’ve been studying about the life and ministry of Jesus from the four Gospel books—  
• Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

• **Ask:** Have you ever wondered why God inspired four people to write about Jesus’ life and ministry  
• instead of one person? (Allow TeamKIDS to respond and discuss.)

• **Say:** Just like each of you may tell the same story in a different way, the authors of these four  
• Gospel books wrote about the same true story of Jesus’ life and ministry, and they often included  
• different details to match the audiences they were writing to and to meet specific needs. All of these  
• writers wrote down the things Jesus said and did so that people would know Jesus is the Messiah.  
• They wanted people to know who Jesus was and why He came so that they could believe in Him and  
• have eternal life! Let’s read more about who these Gospel writers said Jesus is.

### DEFINE IT: INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT—God the Spirit guided certain people to write the Bible

• **Say:** The Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote to specific groups of people at  
• different times and different places. Yet, each writer wrote the same story that told of how Jesus is  
• the Messiah—the Promised One sent by God to save us. Both Matthew and John were eyewitnesses  
• to Jesus’ time on this earth. We don’t know if Luke or Mark witnessed any of the events firsthand  
• or if their information came from talking to those who did, such as Peter and Paul. All of these men  
• were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write down these Bible books.

• Let’s start by reading about the Gospel of John. This Bible book speaks of how Jesus, the eternal  
• Son of God who created the whole world, came as light into the darkness. John wrote to tell of the  
• life Jesus brings to all who believe in Him.

Consider marking Bible passages for kids to read during Bible study. Utilize slides as needed.

## THE JESUS OF THE GOSPELS

### BASED ON JOHN 1:10-15, LUKE 1:1-4, MARK 1:1, MATTHEW 4:12-17

Ask a TeamKID to read John 1:10-13, or read these verses.

- **Ask:** What do these verses teach us about who Jesus is? (Allow TeamKIDs to respond and discuss.
- Answers may include: Jesus created the world, Jesus was rejected by His own people [the Jews],
- Jesus gave the right to everyone who believes in Him to be called children of God.)

- These verses in John's Gospel tell us a lot about who Jesus is. Jesus was with
- God at the beginning of creation as God the Son. He came into the world He
- created, and many of His own people rejected Him; they did not believe He was the
- Messiah. But, Jesus came to make a way for people to be part of God's kingdom.
- Everyone who believes and trusts in Jesus is called a daughter or son of God.

Invite a TeamKID to read Mark 1:1.

- **Ask:** What do you notice about the way Mark began his Gospel book? (Mark begins by telling
- people that this is the beginning of the gospel of Jesus, the Son of God.)

- Mark's first words were to tell his readers that the words they are about to read are
- the beginning of the gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ, and that Jesus is the Son
- of God. Rather than beginning with the family or birth of Jesus, Mark began by
- declaring Jesus is the Messiah and then giving an account of His life and ministry.

Invite a TeamKID to read Luke 1:1-4.

- **Ask:** What do we learn about Luke in these verses? (Luke may not have been an eyewitness of
- Jesus, but he had carefully investigated the life and ministry of Jesus. Luke wrote so that Theophilus
- would know the certainty of the truth of the gospel.)

- Luke wrote to a man named Theophilus (meaning "loved of God." and he could
- have been a government official or a person of influence) to better help him
- understand all the events of Jesus' life. Luke was told of all these events by
- eyewitnesses and after investigating Jesus' life confirmed that it was all true.
- Luke's Gospel helps readers see that Jesus is the fulfillment of the story of God for
- the whole world, both Jews and Gentiles—like Luke (a Gentile).

Invite a TeamKID to read Matthew 4:12-17.

- The gospel of Matthew presents an eyewitness testimony of the ministry of
- Jesus and emphasizes that Jesus truly is the Messiah and coming King of the Old
- Testament. Matthew takes special effort to point out the Old Testament promises
- and prophecies that are fulfilled in Jesus, like this prophecy from Isaiah 9:1-2.
- Matthew wanted the Jewish people to whom he was writing to understand that this
- is the Promised Messiah, the coming King who came to bring the kingdom of God
- to God's people, just like He promised.
- Each Gospel book brings new details together of the same story. Jesus is God the
- Son, the Messiah, the Promised One who came to earth so that we might believe in
- who He is and that by believing we would be saved.

## GOING DEEPER

- **Say: Jesus is the Messiah God promised to send so that we would have life when we believe in Him.** We can read our Bibles and learn more about who Jesus is and what He has done so that we might be saved through Him. God inspired different people to write different books in the Bible, and these different books all tell one big story about who Jesus is, why He came, and how that changes us. The Gospel books in the Bible all tell the story that Jesus is the Promised Messiah and prompt us to respond to Jesus in faith of who He is and what He has done.

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- Who are the four Gospel authors? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)
- What was the purpose (reason for) John's gospel? (that people may believe in Jesus and have life through Him)
- What does each Gospel book do? (Each Gospel book brings new details together of the same story—the story of Jesus and why He came.)

### Older Kids

- What do all the Gospels prove about Jesus? (that He is the Messiah and God's Son)
- Why is it important that the events of Jesus' life were recorded by eyewitnesses? (It is important because we have evidence that events actually took place. While we were not there to see what happened, we have truthful stories of what actually happened.)
- The Gospel writers wanted to help people believe in Jesus. How can you help others to know and believe in Jesus? (Guide TeamKIDs to suggest various ways they can help others know about Jesus such as talking about what God is teaching them, showing kindness and compassion toward others, asking questions about what others believe about God or Jesus. Be sensitive to never shame a child about sharing the gospel, but encourage them in how they can practice everyday opportunities to pray for others and show kindness as they talk about how God makes a difference in their lives.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Guide kids to turn to the back of their activity pages to complete "Getting to Know the Gospel Writers."

Discuss how **Jesus is the Messiah God promised to send so that we would have life when we believe in Him.** Lead kids to consider how this promise gives us hope and confidence to trust in God and the Bible.

## PRAY

Lead the children in a prayer. Thank God for fulfilling His promise to send the Messiah. Ask God to help us believe and trust in Jesus.



## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: GOSPEL BOOKS POP UP

*Provide: Inflated ball with Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John written on it*

- Gather TeamKIDs in a circle. Point to each child in random order. When you point to a TeamKID, that person should “pop up” and say his name. Play several rounds so that each TeamKID says her name at least twice.
- Hold the inflated beach ball and explain that some books of the Bible, like the Gospel books, are named for the people who wrote them. Explain that TeamKIDs will hear different names called out. If the name is a Gospel book, the TeamKID should pass the ball to his neighbor. If the name that is called is another TeamKID’s name, the TeamKID will pop up and will catch the ball when it is thrown. Continue play, sometimes saying a Bible book name and sometimes saying a child’s name. If a child’s name is a Bible book name, be sure the child’s first and last name is said.
- Discuss how the Gospel writers all wrote about the life and ministry of Jesus. They shared different details of the same story to help people understand who Jesus is and why He came. Remind TeamKIDs that **Jesus is the Messiah God promised to send so that we would have life when we believe in Him.** Help them to understand that we can trust what Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote because they were inspired by God to write these words.

### OPTION 2: KEY VERSE CIRCLES

*Provide: “Allergy Alert” (item 4)—latex allergy; inflated balloons; timer*

- Guide TeamKIDs to echo this week’s Key Verse from John 1:12. Assign kids to circles of four or five kids. Give each group an inflated balloon.
- When instructed, the groups will pass the balloon. Each person will say a word from the verse and then pass the balloon to the person next to him in the group. Play several rounds. Consider timing the group for one minute and encouraging groups to finish saying the verse before the timer sounds.

Balloons are a choking hazard for kids under age 8. Make sure a leader inflates balloons.

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: Dry erase board and dry erase marker, “Use Your One Life” missions video*

- **Say:** God wants us to obey Him and tell others about Him. We only have one life to live for Jesus.
- Let’s see how student missionaries are living their ‘one life’ to bring glory to Jesus.

Direct kids to pay special attention to the video and to raise a hand each time they hear one of the missionaries talk about ways they are living for Jesus. Play the video.

After the video, explain that Hands On missionaries are students who serve for three to four months in another country, helping the missionaries who live there. Ask kids to discuss some of the ways they heard that these young women were serving Jesus. List them on the dry erase board. Some examples from the video include making videos, holding babies, teaching the Bible, making friends, going to Africa, and putting God first. Lead TeamKIDs to pray for the missionaries serving in Africa and for people to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### FACE OFF (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 95)

*No supplies needed.*

- Form equal teams. Guide kids to stand in a single line in their teams. Instruct the first person in line to make a silly face, then spin around to show the person behind her. That person must make the same face, and spin around to show person number three. Pass the silly face down the line to the end. The last person in line will then make a different silly face and pass the new silly face back to the first person in line.
- Debrief: Ask TeamKIDs if it was easy or difficult to mirror their friends' silly faces. Remind kids that when we trust in Jesus for salvation, we are called disciples of Jesus. This means that we learn from Jesus and mirror or reflect Him to others. Share that God calls every person who trusts in Jesus to make disciples and to teach others what it looks like to follow Jesus.

### GOSPEL BOWLING (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 96)

*Provide: Disposable cups (8 per team with books of the Bible written on them, 4 with Gospel books, 4 with others), marker, balls*

- Form teams of three to four bowlers. Explain that each team has a set of eight cups with books of the Bible written on them. Tell the teams that they will work together to knock over the cups that are NOT a Gospel book. Review the four Gospel books. Each player will have three tries per turn to knock over the cups. Every time a non-Gospel cup is knocked over the team gets two points. The goal is to knock over all four non-gospel Bible books and get to eight points. Deduct one point for every Gospel cup that is knocked over. The team with the highest score wins.
- Debrief: Discuss how the Gospel writers wrote so that we would believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Lead kids to share what they have learned about the Gospel books and what they say about Jesus.

### FLAGS OF PROMISE (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 97)

*Provide: Strips of paper with a promise from God's Word written on each one—create three sets of the same promises, one for each team and one for the leader. Examples: "God promises to never leave you; Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever; God will supply all your needs," and so forth.*

- TeamKIDs will form two teams. Each kid will be assigned a specific promise from the Bible from his team's set of "flags." The leader will hold up and call out a "flag of promise" and the corresponding player from each team will race to the leader and then back to her team. Points are awarded for the kid who races back to her team first.
- Debrief: Encourage TeamKIDs to trust in the promises of God and to remember that every promise is fulfilled through Jesus.

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: "Questions with Kids" slide*

Display the "Questions with Kids" slide.

- ⋮ **Ask:** What is some good news you heard this week?

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today's study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today's activity page.

- ⋮ **Say:** **Jesus is the Messiah God promised to send so that we would have life when we believe**
- ⋮ **in Him.** Just like the Gospel writers shared the good news of Jesus, we are also called to share Jesus
- ⋮ with others. Think about how you can tell others about God's promised Messiah.

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, "Key Verse" slide*

Review the Key Verse (John 1:12) and encourage TeamKIDs to echo the verse after you.

- ⋮ **Say:** Jesus came so that we could be part of God's kingdom when we confess our sin and believe
- ⋮ in Jesus to save us. Not everyone who hears about Jesus responds in faith, but Jesus promises that
- ⋮ everyone who does respond to the good news of the gospel by believing in Him will be saved.

### PRAY

Lead the kids in a prayer, thanking God for sending Jesus. Ask God to help TeamKIDs believe in God's promises and respond in faith.

### DISMISS

*Provide: "Bonus Unit Parent Connections" (item 64), yarn, scissors, dry erase board, dry erase marker*

Write the word *believe* on the board. Encourage TeamKIDs to form groups of two to three and use their yarn to write out the word. Remind TeamKIDs that the Gospels help us to know Jesus so we can believe in Him and find life.

Play several rounds using different words from today's session. (examples: good news, Jesus, Holy Spirit, inspired, and so forth.)

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and a Parent Connection.

## BONUS SESSION 2

# THE SHEPHERDS WORSHIPED JESUS

TODAY'S POINT: JESUS' BIRTH WAS ANNOUNCED TO THE SHEPHERDS SO THEY COULD WORSHIP JESUS AND TELL OTHERS ABOUT HIM.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus Was Born (Luke 2)

### KEY VERSE

Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:11

### PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible study and life application by sharing this session's Parent Connection (item 64).

## AT A GLANCE

### LARGE GROUP

- ☐ Bonus Unit slide
- ☐ Bonus Session 2 slide
- ☐ Unit 2 Countdown Video

- ☐ Dry erase board
- ☐ Dry erase marker
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Activity Books (1 per TeamKID)

### BIBLE ACTIVITIES

#### KEY VERSE BALLOON CHALLENGE

- ☐ Inflated balloons (1 set per team, each in a different color)
- ☐ "Allergy Alert" (item 4)

#### HIGH FIVE MESSAGES

- ☐ \*No supplies needed

### MISSIONS

- ☐ "Lottie Moon Kits for Kids" (item 65)

### GAMES

#### CHRISTMAS BOW RELAY (PLAYBOOK, P 98)

- ☐ Gift bows (1 set per team)
- ☐ Gift bags (1 per team)

#### CRAB SOCCER (PLAYBOOK, P 99)

- ☐ Cones
- ☐ Soccer ball

#### SHEEP HERDING (PLAYBOOK, P 100)

- ☐ Balloons
- ☐ Flyswatters (new)
- ☐ Cones
- ☐ "Allergy Alert" (item 4)

### CLOSING

- ☐ Bonus "Questions with Kids" slide
- ☐ Bible

- ☐ "Key Verse" slide
- ☐ "Bonus Unit Parent Connections" (item 64)



# LEADER DEVOTION

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## OPEN THE BIBLE

Read Luke 2:1-20 from your Bible or Bible app.

## STUDY

In this passage we see a variety of forms of worship as the response to what God has done. The angels sang praises to God singing, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors.” The shepherds hurried to see the newborn Savior. They went to tell others what they had seen and then returned, glorifying God. Our worship takes many forms. In fact, everything we do as believers can be a form of worship. First Corinthians 10:31 tells us that whatever we do, we are to do it for the glory of God.

As you prepare to teach this week, consider what form your worship of God is taking today. Are you singing praise to Him? Are you eager to share your faith with someone else? Are you quietly praising God for the work He is doing in your heart? When we understand who God is and what He has done we are naturally drawn to worship Him.

In this session you will focus on the way the shepherds responded to the news that the Savior had been born. They hurried to Bethlehem to see for themselves that Jesus had been born. They worshiped Him, then they went out to tell everyone what they had seen and heard. Our response to the gospel message is similar. We hear the good news, experience God’s grace in our own lives, and then we tell others and invite them to experience God’s presence, too.

## CONSIDER

- How do you worship God, both corporately with other believers and personally?
- Consider a time when you experienced meaningful worship of God. How did God show you more of Himself through your worship?

BONUS  
2

## LARGE GROUP (20–30 MINUTES)

### OPENING ACTIVITY: DRAW THE STAR (5–10 MINUTES)

*Provide: Dry erase board and dry erase marker*

Welcome TeamKIDs as they arrive. Consider playing the “Unit Countdown” video to get started.

Play a round of “Draw It” using the phrase, “The Savior is born!” Draw blank lines representing each letter of the phrase, and then invite the kids to guess the letters. If the kids guess a wrong letter, draw another part of the Christmas star. The kids must guess the phrase before you draw the whole star. If time allows, play again with different phrases. (example: Angels appeared to shepherds; shepherds worshiped Jesus, and so forth)

- **Say:** You might have guessed from our game that today we’re going to hear the story of Jesus being born. We’ll take a look at how God sent an angel to share the good news with shepherds, and
- we’ll learn how they responded to the newborn Savior. Let’s get ready to hear more!

### BIBLE STUDY: JESUS WAS BORN (15–20 MINUTES)

*Provide: Bibles, Activity Books (1 per child)*

Invite kids to turn to page 79 in their books and follow along as you lead the Bible study.

- **Say:** We know that the Bible is God’s Word. It is completely true and it is given to us in love so that
- we may know God and what He has done. In the book of Hebrews we read that the “word of God
- is living and effective.” (See Hebrews 4:12.) Reading the Bible changes us. When we read a story
- from Scripture we learn something new about God. Or maybe God shows us something that is true,
- good, and beautiful about Him. So let’s read our Bible passage, and even if you’ve heard it before,
- think about what God is teaching you today!

**DEFINE IT: SAVIOR**—one who saves or rescues others; Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sin when we repent and believe in Him

**DEFINE IT: WORSHIP**—giving honor, reverence, and praise to God; worship is the response people give to God for Who He is and what He has done

- **Say:** Today’s story is about a group of people who heard some really incredible news.
- **Ask:** What is some good news you heard this week? What did you do when you heard it?
- **Say:** Usually when something good happens, or we hear about good news, our response is to want
- to tell others. That’s exactly what the people in the story did. They heard something incredible, they
- saw it for themselves, and then they shared the news with others.

Consider marking Bible passages for kids to read during Bible study. Utilize slides as needed.

## JESUS WAS BORN BASED ON LUKE 2

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BONUS  
2

There was a young woman named Mary, who was engaged to a man named Joseph. Before they were married an angel appeared to Mary, announcing to her that she was going to have a baby. This baby would be the Savior of the world, the Son of God. The angel also appeared to Joseph, telling him to not be afraid to marry her and raise the child. They were to name the baby Jesus. (Matthew 1:18-24)

Near the time the baby would be born, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. There were many people visiting the town at that time, so there was no place for them to stay. While they were there, Mary gave birth to Jesus. She wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger.

**Ask:** Where was Jesus born? Does it surprise you that the Savior would be born in such a humble place? (Jesus was born in a shelter where animals stay. He was placed in a manger (feeding trough) after He was born. Lead kids to discuss if this is how they thought a king would be born.)

We might expect that Jesus would be born in a palace to a royal family. After all, He is called the King of kings. Instead God chose to come into the world through a poor couple from a small town. He was born in a stable where the animals were kept. His crib was a feeding trough. The reason Jesus came into the world was so He could identify with humanity. His life would be one of hard work and perfect obedience to God.

**Ask:** If you wanted to make a great announcement about the Savior being born, whom would you tell? Let's read and find out who gets to hear the good news first.

Read Luke 2:8-14, or encourage a few TeamKIDs to read these verses aloud.

God chose to share the good news with a group of lowly shepherds hanging out with their flocks in the fields near Bethlehem. They certainly were in for a surprise that night! The angel of the Lord announced to the shepherds that the Savior had been born. They were invited to come and see this wonderful thing that God had done. God Himself had come down to us, to rescue us from sin and make a way for us to be with Him for all eternity, and it was a small group of shepherds that heard about it first. Let's keep reading and find out what the shepherds did next.

Read Luke 2:15-18, or encourage a TeamKID to read these verses aloud.

**Ask:** How did the shepherds respond to this incredible announcement? They immediately went to find Jesus and then told others about what they saw.)

That's right, they went to see for themselves! When they had seen the baby Jesus they went out to tell everyone what they had seen and heard.

## GOING DEEPER

- **Say:** Jesus' birth was announced to the shepherds so they could worship Jesus and tell others about Him. The first people God chose to announce this good news of Jesus' birth to were not kings or people of high influence. God chose to announce this news to shepherds, men that most people would not see as significant. In God's eyes no one is more important than anyone else.
- All people are made in God's image and are valuable. God would work through these shepherds to begin spreading the news that the Messiah had finally come into the world!

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER

Spend a few minutes asking kids the following review questions. Encourage kids to discuss their answers in small groups.

### Younger Kids

- Why do you think the angel of the Lord told the shepherds to not be afraid? (because they were afraid)
- The whole host of angels appeared to the shepherds. Whom were they praising? (God)
- What did the shepherds do when the angels left them? (they went to find Jesus)

### Older Kids

- Why do you think God first shared the news of the Savior's birth with poor shepherds? (Answers may include: Jesus is the Lamb of God; Jesus is the Good Shepherd; Jesus was a humble king who came to proclaim salvation to everyone.)
- What does this tell us about the kind of people God welcomes into His kingdom? (God welcomes everyone into His kingdom who responds to Him in repentance and faith.)

## CONNECT

Lead kids form smaller groups to review their answers on side one of their activity pages. If older and younger TeamKIDs are together, consider forming two groups.

Guide kids to turn to the back of their activity pages to complete "Gospel Message." Kids will identify true and false messages.

- **Say:** God's kingdom is certainly a different kind of kingdom than most people would have expected! The King of kings would be born in a stable, live a humble life, and die on a cross in order to save others, then rise from the dead three days later so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life. When we hear this good news we want to experience it for ourselves. Then we want to tell others about God's love and invite them to be part of God's kingdom. What is your response to God when you think about what He has done for you?

## PRAY

Lead the kids in prayer. Thank God for sending Jesus into the world and for loving people from all walks of life. Thank God for inviting us to share the good news of the gospel with others, and ask Him to help us do that with boldness this week.



## BIBLE ACTIVITIES (10–15 MINUTES)

### OPTION 1: KEY VERSE BALLOON CHALLENGE

*Provide: Inflated balloons with one word of the Key Verse written on each balloon (one set per team, each in a different color); “Allergy Alert” (item 4)—latex allergy,*

- Read through Luke 2:11 several times with the kids. Guide the group to form two teams and assign each team a balloon color. Then challenge the teams to find the balloons for their team around the room and put them in the correct order.
- Explain that a savior is a rescuer. Why do we need a savior? Allow time for responses. We are all sinful, and our sin separates us from God. Is there anything we can do to save ourselves from our sin? No! That’s why we need a savior, a rescuer. Jesus is our Savior. He came to earth so He could be the perfect sacrifice for us.

### OPTION 2: HIGH FIVE MESSAGES

- Choose one volunteer to start. Explain that you will give that kid a high five and say something true about Jesus. Then the kid will give high fives to two other kids and say something else true about Jesus. Both of those kids will give two high fives and so on. Once a kid has given her high fives she will sit down right where she is. Tell the kids they can say anything that’s true about Jesus such as “Jesus is the Son of God,” or “Jesus was born in Bethlehem.”
- Ask kids what they noticed about the way the news about Jesus spread. Share that within a short amount of time everyone had received a high five and knew something true about Jesus. Jesus’ birth was announced to the shepherds so they could worship Him and tell others about Him. The shepherds were so excited by what they had heard that they told everyone the good news! We can be like those shepherds. We know the gospel, the truth that Jesus has died to pay the penalty for our sin, and He has risen from the grave so we can have life with God. This is good news that we can tell everyone!

## MISSIONS (10–15 MINUTES)

*Provide: “Lottie Moon Kits for Kids” (item 65)*

- **Say:** Lottie Moon was a missionary to China a long time ago. She loved the people of China, especially the children. She told them about Jesus until she died. Many churches take up an offering for missionaries that’s named after her—the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® for International Missions.

If your church participates in the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (or another missions offering), explain how your church is collecting money and your goal. Encourage kids to think of a way they can give their own money to the offering: gift money, allowance, chores, and so forth. Consider collecting an offering with your kids and putting that money toward your church’s goal.

Distribute the “Lottie Moon Kits for Kids” (item 65). Ask for volunteers to read the story of Lottie Moon aloud. As time permits, invite kids to complete the included activities.

- **Say:** Giving to an offering to send more missionaries around the world is a great way for us to worship Jesus and thank God for sending His Son.

## GAMES (15–20 MINUTES)

Choose from the following games in the TeamKID Playbook.

### CHRISTMAS BOW RELAY (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 98)

*Provide: Gift bows with word phrases from Luke 2:11 written on the backs (1 set per team; place in gift bags), gift bags (1 per team)*

- Create two teams. Assign a prepared gift bag to each team. On your cue, player one from each team will race to his team's gift bag, retrieve a bow, and return to his team to tag player two who will do the same. Continue until all bows have been retrieved. Teams are to gather the bows, turn them over to identify the verse phrases, and quickly place in verse order. The first team to correctly place the bows in verse order wins!
- Debrief: Explain how we needed a Savior to save us from our sins because we could not save ourselves. God gave us Jesus, His only Son, to come to earth as a human to live without sin and die. Jesus is the greatest gift ever.

### CRAB SOCCER (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 99)

*Provide: Cones, soccer ball*

- Guide kids to form two teams. Place cones at either end of the playing area to designate each team's goal. Explain that the kids will play a game of soccer while doing the crab walk (belly up, on their hands and feet.) When one team makes a goal, they must shout out Today's Point together: **"Jesus' birth was announced to the shepherds so they could worship Jesus and tell others about Him."** The team with the most points after a given amount of time wins.
- Share how teams had to work together to score the goals.
- Debrief: "Did you know that we can work together with other Christians to share the gospel with others? Jesus knows that we need encouragement as we share the gospel with our friends and neighbors. When Jesus sent out His disciples to heal people and preach that God's kingdom had come, they went out in pairs. Let's work together to invite others into God's family!"

### SHEEP HERDING (TEAMKID PLAYBOOK PAGE 100)

*Provide: Balloons (different colors for each team), flyswatters (new, 1 per kid), recreation cones, "Allergy Alert" (item 4)—latex allergy*

- Guide the class to form two teams. Give each kid a flyswatter. Place all the balloons in the center of the room. Explain that the kids will have to get their team's balloons back to their sheep pen (cones). The team with the most "sheep" in their pen after a few minutes wins. Play several rounds as time allows. For an added challenge allow the kids to attempt to steal the opposing team's sheep.
- Debrief: Explain how the shepherds had a pretty tough job caring for their flocks of sheep. Sheep aren't known for being the smartest animals, and often they would wander off or they would be attacked by a wild animal. A shepherd's job was to keep his sheep safe and provide for their needs. Later in Jesus' life He would be called the Good Shepherd. We are like His sheep. He cares for us and guides us where we need to go, even though we often try to wander off on our own.

## CLOSING (5–10 MINUTES)

### QUESTIONS WITH KIDS

*Provide: "Questions with Kids" slide*

Display the "Questions with Kids" slide.

- **Ask:** What is some good news you heard this week?

Encourage kids to discuss key points from today's study and share any thoughts, ideas, encouragement, or questions they may have. If time allows, encourage kids to write down their thoughts and questions on side two of today's activity page.

### KEY VERSE

*Provide: Bible, "Key Verse" slide*

Read today's Key Verse and invite TeamKIDs to echo the verse after you read it.

- **Say:** Jesus' birth was announced to the shepherds so they could worship Jesus and tell others about Him. The first thing the shepherds did was go see Jesus for themselves. Before they told another person about what they had seen, they worshiped Him themselves. God is inviting you to worship Him. He wants us to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. When we recognize God's love, goodness, and mercy toward us, we will want to share that love with others.

### PRAY

Lead the kids in prayer, or ask a kid to pray for the class. Thank God for His love for us and for sending Jesus to rescue us from sin and bring us into His kingdom. Ask God to help us worship Him and tell others about Jesus.

### DISMISS

Choose one kid to be the message-giver. Whisper a message to that child. She must communicate the message to the rest of the class without speaking. Explain that the kids don't have to guess the message word for word. When a kid guesses the message she gets to be the next message-giver. Possible messages: "Today is my birthday." "This book is really good!" "I got an A on my homework."

The angels announced the good news that the Savior had been born. The shepherds were able to share that message to others nearby!

As TeamKIDs are dismissed, give each child his or her personal belongings, activity page, and a Parent Connection.

BONUS  
2

Be prepared to discuss any questions kids may have about responding to the gospel. See page 12 for leader helps on engaging in these conversations!





## NOTES PAGE

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# Get the most from your study.

Customize your Bible study time with a guided experience and additional resources.



TeamKID is a fun, high-energy ministry that encourages kids to know Jesus Christ and to grow in a relationship with Him. That's why TeamKID ends with KID. KID stands for Kids in Discipleship! All parts of TeamKID—Bible stories, Scripture memory, missions activities, life application, and recreation games—connect to teach life lessons to kids.

This study will equip you to guide kids and their families as they pursue Jesus in practical ways through:

- Key Bible stories about the life and ministry of Jesus
- Interactive Bible study
- Mission experiences that ignite hands-on-learning
- Practical application points of how kids can live out their faith
- Fun Bible activities that build Bible skills and understanding
- Engaging activity books that reinforce key truths each week
- Family connection pages with key summaries and practical next steps for families

Your TeamKIDs will walk away from this study:

- Excited to pursue their faith
- Confident in how to study their Bibles
- Equipped to live out their faith in daily life

Lifeway designs trustworthy experiences that fuel ministry. Today, the ministries of Lifeway reach more than 160 countries around the globe. For specific information on Lifeway Kids or TeamKID resources, visit [lifeway.com/teamkid](http://lifeway.com/teamkid).



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### **TEAMKID: GOOD NEWS YOUNGER KIDS ACTIVITY BOOK**

Activities for 40 sessions  
of *TeamKID: Good News*  
(9781087766805)  
Digital: (9781087767017)

### **TEAMKID: GOOD NEWS OLDER KIDS ACTIVITY BOOK**

Activities for 40 sessions  
of *TeamKID: Good News*  
(9781087766812)  
Digital: (9781087767000 )

### **TEAMKID: GOOD NEWS MISSION DVD**

Mission videos to  
accompany 40 sessions  
of *TeamKID: Good News*  
(9781087766836)

\*Also available on the  
DVD-ROM in the Leader  
Kit or Digital Leader Kit

### **TEAMKID ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDE**

A helpful guide that  
provides everything  
needed to begin a  
TeamKID ministry  
(978108777702 )  
Digital: (9781087778112)



## THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS!

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were written to teach us that Jesus is the Messiah that God promised. Jesus came to fulfill God's plan and teach people about the kingdom of God. In this edition of TeamKID, kids will explore the themes and purposes of the Gospels and learn how each account of the same story seamlessly weaves different details together to share the good news of Jesus and the kingdom of God.

**Lifeway**<sup>TM</sup> kids

[lifeway.com/teamkid](http://lifeway.com/teamkid)