

# Spring Unit 1

**Weeks of:** January 3 - January 31

**Bible Focus:** Jesus is God's Son

**Bible Verse:** "I will praise you, oh Lord, with all my heart.  
I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1

**Bottom Line:** I can learn about God's Son, Jesus.



## Unit Goals: Children will learn...

- Jesus is God's Son. God sent Him to earth for a special reason.
- Jesus would save and forgive people for their sins and bad choices.
- Jesus showed us how to live: how to obey God and how to treat others.
- We can tell others that Jesus is God's Son.
- We can follow Jesus' example and obey God and help others like he did.

Sunday	Bible Story	Music
Jan. 3	Escape to Egypt Matthew 2:1-15	<p><b>Unit Bible Verse Song:</b> "I Will Praise You" (DPM Spring 2018 CD)</p> <p><b>Other Suggested Songs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We Can Praise Jesus</li> <li>• I Want to Be Like Jesus</li> <li>• Jesus I Will Follow</li> <li>• Yes! Jesus Loves Me</li> <li>• O, How I Love Jesus</li> </ul>
Jan. 10	Jesus at the Temple Matthew 2:19-23	
Jan. 17	John Preaches in the Desert Matthew 3:1-6	
Jan. 24	John Baptizes Jesus Matthew 3:13-17	
Jan. 31	Jesus Chooses Helpers Matthew 4:18-22	

# Escape to Egypt

January 3

## Bible Story

Matthew 2:1-15

## Teacher Challenge

Notice the way God arranged circumstances to protect young Jesus! He displayed a unique star and positioned some curious men to notice it. He gave them a desire to find and worship the King of that star, and then led them to His exact location (without GPS!). He sent a dream to keep them from returning to Herod. God arranged details of astronomy, history, geography and psychology to perfectly prepare these international visitors for a vital role in protecting Jesus' life!

- Look back at this week: What details did you notice God arranging in your life?
- In what ways did God protect you? Propel you forward? Surprise you?

God arranges the details of our lives in ways just as amazing as He did for the wise men—if we'll pause to notice! See how He has surrounded you with His love in great and small ways. Tell these stories to your children; help them become aware of the many ways God cares for them! And as you tell how God has cared for you, express your heartfelt gratitude!

**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of all your wonders."  
Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Teach me your way, O Lord." Psalm 86:11*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

## Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.
- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.
- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Psalm 92:1), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 1 Overview Sheet.



# Play to Learn

January 3

## Active Game Center: Follow the Star



### Collect

Bible, small doll or unbreakable nativity-scene figure of Jesus, flashlight.

### Prepare

Hide doll or nativity-scene figure of Jesus in classroom.

### Do

1. Shine the flashlight on the floor, moving it along a path for the children to walk. Children follow the light around classroom to the doll or figure.
2. Children close eyes while you hide doll or figure again. Repeat as time and interest allow.

### Talk About

➔ **Today's Bible story tells about some wise men who saw a bright star shining in the sky. The wise men packed special gifts and started on a long trip to find God's Son, Jesus. Let's play a game where we follow a light!**

➔ **The Bible says, "The Lord your God is with you." We can thank God that He is always with us. Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for loving us and always being with us.**



**God's Word**  
"The Lord your God is with you."  
Zephaniah 3:17

**God's Word and Me**  
I can thank God that He is always with me.

### For Younger Children

Instead of using a flashlight, cut a star out of yellow card stock. Hold the star above your head. Children follow you around the room.

### For Older Children

Children take turns hiding the doll.



### Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today's Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

# Play to Learn

January 3

## Art Center: ★ Travel Time

### Collect

Bible, Lesson 17 Travel Time Car Pattern from *Growing with God* CD-ROM for each child, markers.

### Do

Fold and open Travel Time Car Pattern for each child.

### Do

Children fold Travel Time Car Pattern and draw their family inside the car. Children color outside of car.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Mary, Joseph and Jesus went on a long trip to a country called Egypt. In Bible times, when people went on trips, they usually walked. When we go on trips, we usually ride in a car.**
- ➔ **Brooke, where have you gone on a trip with your family? God is with you when you go to your grandma's house.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "The Lord your God is with you." God is with us everywhere we go! I'm glad God is always with me. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for always being with me.**



**God's Word**  
"The Lord your God is with you."  
Zephaniah 3:17

**God's Word and Me**  
I can thank God that He is always with me.

### For Younger Children

Ask children to name the people they draw. Label each person.

### For Older Children

Children name a place their family goes in the car. Assist children in writing the place name on the Car Pattern.

# Play to Learn

January 3

## Dramatic Play Center: Passenger Travel



### Collect

Bible, Lesson 17 Passenger Travel Tickets from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, chairs, travel objects (small suitcases and/or backpacks, maps, travel brochures, cameras, compasses, postcards, pencils, etc.).

### Prepare

Copy and cut out Passenger Travel Tickets. Set out chairs in rows for airplane.

### Do

1. Children pack travel objects into suitcases and/or backpacks. Children show tickets to a child or helper pretending to be airline personnel and then pretend to fly on the plane.
2. When children arrive at pretend destination, children go on a walking tour and use cameras and compasses. Children can write postcards to family describing their trip.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, some wise men went on a long trip to Bethlehem. Mary, Joseph and Jesus went on a long trip to Egypt. Let's pretend we're going on a trip, too!**
- ➔ **Enrique, what are some things people do to get ready for a trip? Packing is an important thing to do before a trip. What kinds of things do you want to take with you on your trip?**
- ➔ **Jessica, where are you going on your trip? God will be with you when you go to the beach. God is with you always.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "The Lord your God is with you." God is with us everywhere we go! I'm glad God is always with me.**
- ➔ **Let's thank God for always being with us.** Pray briefly.



**God's Word**  
"The Lord your God is with you."  
Zephaniah 3:17

**God's Word and Me**  
I can thank God that He is always with me.

### For Younger Children

Provide only suitcases and/or backpacks and two or three other travel objects. Children pack suitcases and/or backpacks, walk around the room, and then unpack suitcases and or/backpacks.

### For Older Children

Provide magazine pictures of different locations (mountains, beaches, amusement parks, etc.). Children glue pictures to sheets of construction paper to make their own travel posters and/or brochures.

# Listen to Learn

January 3

Matthew 2:1-15

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 30 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 DVD or CD* and player, beanbag or ball.

## Greet Each Other

Children sit in a circle. Play "Welcome, Hello!" (track 1 on CD). Children pass beanbag or ball around the circle. After beanbag or ball has been passed to several children, stop the music. Child holding the beanbag or ball when the music stops tells a place he or she goes.

**God's Word**  
"The Lord your God is with you."  
Zephaniah 3:17

**God's Word and Me**  
I can thank God that He is always with me.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 2:1-15. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 30 pictures.

**How many stars do you think are in the sky? There are too many stars for anyone but God to count! Let's listen to our story and hear about one very special star.**



Jesus had been born in Bethlehem. And God wanted some men far away to know about Jesus' birth.

So God put a very bright star in the **sky**. The star showed the wise men that a great new King had been born!

"Let's go and find this King!" the wise men said. "We'll take special gifts to give the new King." The wise men packed their camels. They rode for days and days.



The wise men went to King Herod's palace. They **asked** King Herod, "Where is the new King? We saw His star. We want to worship Him."

King Herod got angry! He wanted to be the **ONLY** king! King Herod asked his helpers where this new King would be born.

"God's Word says He will be born in Bethlehem," they said.



King Herod told the wise men, "**Go**. Find the child. Then come and tell me. I want to worship Him, too." But King Herod really wanted to hurt Jesus!

The wise men went to Bethlehem. They saw the bright star right over Jesus' house! When the wise men saw Jesus, they **bowed**. They gave Him the special gifts they'd brought. Then God told the wise men in a dream, "Do **NOT** go back to King Herod." The wise men went home by another road. They never told King Herod where Jesus was!



Soon after the wise men left, an angel talked to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," the angel said. "Take Mary and Jesus to Egypt. King Herod wants to hurt Jesus." Joseph got right up. He woke Mary and they packed a few things. Mary, Joseph and Jesus started for Egypt in the quiet nighttime. They traveled for many days. Finally, they were in Egypt. Joseph and Mary and Jesus were safe!

## Talk About the Story

Where did the angel tell Joseph to take Mary and Jesus? (Egypt.) God kept Joseph, Mary and Jesus safe by sending the angel to tell them to go to Egypt. They must have been very thankful that God was with them. God is always with us, too! Where do you like to go with your family? God is with you when you go to the park!

## Sing to God

Let's sing a song that reminds us of the night Jesus was born. Lead children in singing "Christmas Joy" (on DVD or track 5 on CD). When the wise men found Jesus, He was no longer a baby. Jesus was a little boy!

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Zephaniah 3:17, say verse aloud. **God shows His love for us by being with us all the time!** Lead children in repeating the verse. Children point up on the words "Lord" and point to a different child in the class on the word "you." Repeat several times.

**Option:** Children experiment with singing the words of the verse to familiar tunes ("Mary Had a Little Lamb," "Are You Sleeping?" etc.).

## Pray to God

We can thank God for always being with us. Invite each volunteer to pray this brief thank-you prayer: **Thank You, God, for being with me always.**

## Praise to God

Children stand on one side of classroom. **In our Bible story today, God was with Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. I'm glad that God is with us wherever we go. Let's walk across the room in different ways, showing different places we go.** Lead children in walking across the room in a variety of ways: slowly as if carrying heavy bags from the grocery store, skipping and pretending to hold a beach ball as if going to the beach, tiptoeing quietly as if walking in the library, etc.

# Jesus at the Temple

January 10

## Bible Story

Matthew 2:19-23; Luke 2:41-52

## Teacher Challenge

When they found Jesus amazing the religious leaders, Mary and Joseph realized that Jesus hadn't considered Himself lost—His Father was with Him. He was "at home"! Imagine how Mary and Joseph must have felt trying to raise Jesus! They knew God had called them to care for Him and protect Him. But at times, they must have wondered, Are we teaching Him anything at all? Who is teaching whom?

- ➔ What is something you've been amazed to learn through a child?
- ➔ How has God used that understanding in your life?

Remember that God is with you! In whatever situation causing worry, you can choose to be "at home" in Him. Whenever you feel alone, remember that your Father is in control, ready to hold you. Share specific instances of God's care in your life with your class. Thank God together for His loving ways!

**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart.  
I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Teach me your way, O Lord." Psalm 86:11

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

## Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.
- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚ please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.
- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Psalm 92:1), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 1 Overview Sheet.





# Play to Learn

January 10

## Active Game Center: Musical Verse



### Collect

Bible, Lesson 18 Musical Verse Papers 1-5 on *Growing with God* CD-ROM, *Preschool Music #2* CD and player, chairs.

### Prepare

Place chairs in a circle facing out, one for each child. Place Musical Verse Papers under random chairs in the circle.

### Do

1. Children play a game like Musical Chairs. As you play "How Good It Is" (track 17 on CD), children walk around the circle of chairs. When you stop the music, children sit in the nearest seat.
2. Ask one volunteer with a Musical Verse Paper under their chair to stand up and hand you their paper. Children repeat the verse after you as you say verse aloud. Child places paper back under chair. Play another round. Read a different verse each round.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Mary, Joseph and Jesus went on a trip. In Bible times, people usually walked when they went on trips. Let's play a game where we walk in a circle.**
- ➔ **Nathan, let's read the verse on your paper. These words come from the Bible. God gives us the Bible to teach us how to live. God wants us to (be kind to one another).**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Teach me your way, O Lord." "Lord" is another name for God. God helps us learn about Him. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for loving us. Help us learn about You.**



**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Teach me your way, O Lord." Psalm 86:11*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Place a Musical Verse Paper under only one chair. The child who sits in the chair with the verse stands up and holds the verse for you to read aloud. Replace the paper with a different verse each round.

### For Older Children

Instead of walking while music plays, children count as they move a specific number of chairs around the circle. **Everyone move four chairs to your right.** Specify a number between one and five.

# Play to Learn

January 10

## Art Center: Our Church



### Collect

Bible, Lesson 18 Our Church Circle Pattern from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, a large sheet of butcher paper, markers, tape, scissors, glue sticks.

### Prepare

Draw a simple outline of a room or building on butcher paper (see sketch). (Optional: If your church building or classroom has a recognizable feature, add that to the outline.) Print verse on top of butcher paper. Tape butcher paper to wall. Print several copies of Our Church Circle Pattern and cut out several circles for each child.

### Do

1. Children name the people they come to church with. Give them the appropriate number of circles. Children draw on circles the facial features for each person.
2. Children take turns gluing their circle faces in the building outline on butcher paper.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story today, Mary, Joseph and Jesus walked to the Temple. The Temple was like a big church. We come to church with our families. Let's fill this church building with people!**
- ➔ **Taylor, what do we learn at church? That's right, we learn about God! We learn that God loves us.**
- ➔ **Mason, who reads the Bible to you? Your dad is helping you learn about God. The Bible tells us about God.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Teach me your way, O Lord." "Lord" is another name for God. We come to church to learn about God. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for the Bible. Thank You that we can learn about You at church.**



**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart.  
I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Teach me your way, O Lord." Psalm 86:11*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Draw a small room or building outline on sheets of construction paper, one for each child. Each child glues circle faces onto his or her own sheet of construction paper.

### For Older Children

Children complete additional circle faces representing other people at church they know—Sunday School teachers, pastors, extended family members, friends. Help children label faces as desired.

# Play to Learn

January 10

## Construction Center: Block Temple



### Collect

Bible, blocks, several cardboard paper towel tubes, a sheet of poster board, toy people.

### Do

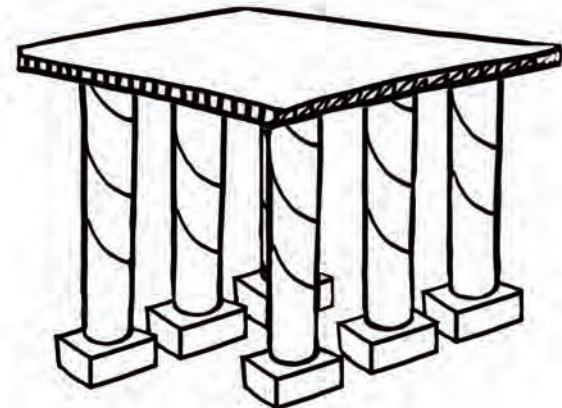
1. Children build a big building with blocks. Children use paper towel rolls as columns and place the poster board on top as a roof.
2. Children use toy people to show Mary, Joseph and Jesus walking to the Temple, Mary and Joseph walking away from the Temple, searching for Jesus, and then finding Jesus in the Temple.

### Talk About

➔ **Our Bible story today tells about the time that Mary and Joseph and Jesus went to a place like a church to pray to God. It was a big building in the city of Jerusalem. The building was called the Temple. Let's build a big building with blocks.**

➔ **On their way home from the Temple, Mary and Joseph couldn't find Jesus. They looked for Him everywhere! Finally they went back to the Temple and found Jesus there. Mary and Joseph cared for Jesus as He grew bigger and stronger.**

➔ **The Bible says, "Teach me your way, O Lord." God gives us the Bible. He also gives us people who teach us what the Bible says. We can thank God for teaching us His ways. Pray, Dear God, thank You for our parents and Sunday School teachers who teach us what the Bible says. Thank You for loving us.**



**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Teach me your way, O Lord." Psalm 86:11*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Children simply play with blocks and toy people as you talk about the Bible story. Build a block Temple as you talk.

### For Older Children

Children stack chin-high block pillars in front of their buildings.

# Play to Learn

January 10

## Dramatic Play Center: Story Time



### Collect

Bible, one or more Bible storybooks, dolls.

### Do

Children read Bible storybooks to dolls. (Optional: Children pretend to get dolls ready for bed and then read a Bible storybook as a bedtime story.)

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Teach me your way, O Lord.” “Lord” is another name for God.**
- ➔ **Stephanie, who tells you stories from the Bible? We can thank God for your grandma.**
- ➔ **Thomas, what story are you reading your baby? You are teaching your baby how God loved us and sent Jesus as a baby!**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for the Bible that tells us about You. And thank You for moms and dads and teachers who read the Bible to us.**

**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*“I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart.  
I will tell of all your wonders.” Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*“Teach me your way, O Lord.” Psalm 86:11*

**God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.



### For Younger Children

Children pretend to go to bed while teacher reads books.

### For Older Children

Children pretend to be Sunday School teachers and tell Bible stories to dolls or to each other.

# Listen to Learn

January 10

Matthew 2:19-23; Luke 2:41-52

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 31 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 DVD or CD* and player.

## Greet Each Other

To help children welcome each other, lead children in doing the motions and saying these words:

**Where are the boys? Where are the boys?** (*Shade eyes with one hand and look around the circle.*)

**Here they are. Here they are.** (*Point to the boys.*)

**We are glad to see you.** (*Circle hands around eyes like glasses.*)

**We are glad to see you.**

**Hello to you! Hello to you!** (*Wave to each of the boys.*)

Repeat poem, greeting the girls.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 2. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 31 pictures.

Ask children to tell their ages. **Every year you grow taller and stronger! Let's hear what happened when Jesus was growing up.**



Mary, Joseph and Jesus were living in Egypt. One night, God told Joseph, "It is safe to take Mary and Jesus home now." They packed their things and walked to their own town of Nazareth. Joseph was a carpenter. Carpenters use tools and nails to make chairs, tables and other things from wood. As Jesus grew, He probably learned to use a **hammer**. He probably cut wood with a saw. Jesus helped Joseph make things out of wood.



Every year many people traveled to worship God at the Temple in Jerusalem. When Jesus was 12 years old, His family traveled to the Temple, too. Many families walked together to go to the Temple.



Mary, Joseph and Jesus could **see** the beautiful Temple. They were glad! Many people prayed and sang glad songs to God at the Temple. They listened to God's Word. They ate special meals and talked to their friends.

Then the visit was over. Many people were **walking** home with Jesus' family. Joseph and Mary thought Jesus was walking with their friends. But Jesus wasn't! Jesus was still in Jerusalem!



When everyone stopped for the night, Joseph and Mary looked for Jesus. They couldn't find Him! Joseph and Mary began to worry. They asked everyone, "Where's Jesus?" No one knew where Jesus was. Mary and Joseph hurried back to Jerusalem. They **asked** everyone they saw if they had seen Jesus!

**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart.  
I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Teach me your way, O Lord." Psalm 86:11

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

Mary and Joseph went to the big Temple. There was Jesus! He was talking with the Bible teachers! He wasn't afraid. He knew God loved Him. Joseph and Mary were glad to find Jesus! They took Jesus back home. They took care of Him. Jesus grew and learned, just as God had planned.

## Talk About the Story

**Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus in Jerusalem?** (In the Temple.) **Jesus was growing up. He went to the Temple to talk with the teachers about God. We can learn about God as we grow, too. What are some ways we can learn about God?** (Listen to Bible stories. Sing songs about God.) **God will help us learn about Him as we grow. God loves us!**

## Sing to God

**Let's sing a song about Jesus' love.** Lead children in singing "Jesus Loves Me" (on DVD or track 7 on CD). **Jesus was just a little baby when He was born, but He didn't stay a baby. Every day, He grew bigger and bigger—just like you do! God loves you as you grow and He will help you learn about Him.**

**Option:** Invite a musician from your church to play "Jesus Loves Me" on a guitar, flute, trumpet, etc.

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Psalm 86:11, say verse aloud. **I'm glad God loves me and helps me to learn about Him. Listening to and saying the words in the Bible is one way to learn about God.** Lead children in repeating the Bible verse several times.

## Pray to God

Pray the following prayer, inserting the names of children into the prayer: **Dear God, thank You for loving Nina and Ian.** Repeat as needed, naming each child in your class. If you have a large class, pray, **Thank You for loving all the boys and all the girls in our class.** End the prayer by saying, **Help us all to learn about You. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Praise to God

Children line up and follow the first child in the line, walking in a circle or around the classroom. Say verse aloud, replacing the word "me" with the name of the line leader. **Teach Mandy your way, O Lord.** After his or her name is said, that child moves to the end of the line and the next child becomes the line leader. Repeat verse until every child has had a chance to be the line leader. (If you have a large class, say the names of the first three or four children in line for each round of the game.)



## Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today's Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

# John Preaches in the Desert

January 17

## Bible Story

Matthew 3:1-6; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-18

## Teacher Challenge

We humans are natural learners—when our attention is focused. So, when God had an important announcement to make, He sent someone who got people’s attention—John the Baptist! John’s clothes told people that he wasn’t beating around the bush; he looked like an Old Testament prophet. Even his diet probably set tongues wagging! He might have taken some getting used to, but he was not boring!

- ➔ What has God used this week to focus your attention?
- ➔ What changes have you made due to this new focus?

Although God used John to focus people’s attention, the goal of gaining that attention wasn’t to get attention for himself—he was there to introduce them to the Lamb of God. Then John said, “He must increase but I must decrease.” (See John 3:30.) Invite God to give you creative ways to get your young hearers’ attention—they, too, are natural learners! Use that focus as John did—to introduce them to Jesus.

**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
“I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart.  
I will tell of all your wonders.” Psalm 92:1

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
“Stop doing wrong and do good.” Psalm 34:14

**God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

## Teacher’s Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.
- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.
- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Psalm 92:1), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 1 Overview Sheet.



## Active Game Center: Desert Toss



### Collect

Bible, Lesson 19 Desert Toss Pictures 1-4 from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, masking tape, beanbag.

### Prepare

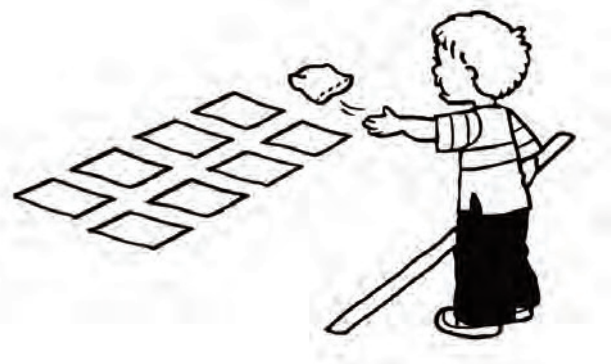
Place Desert Toss Pictures in a grid pattern on the floor on one side of your playing area. Place a masking-tape line 3 feet (.9 m) from the grid. (Note: Remove masking tape immediately after activity.)

### Do

1. Children line up behind the masking-tape line. The first child tosses the beanbag onto the Desert Toss Pictures. The child goes up to the picture the beanbag landed on or near and names the desert object shown.
2. Repeat until each child has had one or two turns.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, a man named John lived in the desert. Let's play a game to find out different things we might see in a desert.**
- ➔ **Diego, on which picture did your beanbag land? It landed on the oasis! An oasis is an area in the desert with water and trees.**
- ➔ **Mackenzie, thank you for waiting your turn. You know how to do good things!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Stop doing wrong and do good." Doing good isn't always easy, but Jesus will help us learn to do good things. Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, please help us learn to do good things.**



**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart.  
I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Stop doing wrong and do good." Psalm 34:14*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Children stand around the grid and drop the beanbag onto the pictures. Name the object in the picture closest to where the beanbag landed.

### For Older Children

Each round, vary the way in which children toss the beanbag: over shoulder, between legs, while standing on one leg, etc.



# Play to Learn

January 17

## Art Center: Sandy Scenes



### Collect

Bible, dry sand (or cornmeal or salt), several shallow disposable bowls, newspaper, glue, dark-colored construction paper, cotton swabs, plastic spoons; optional—dry tempera paints (red, green, blue, purple, etc.).

### Prepare

Pour sand into bowls. (Optional: Mix sand and tempera together, each color in a separate bowl.) Cover tables with newspaper.

### Do

1. Children spread glue with cotton swabs to make designs on sheets of construction paper. Then children use spoons to sprinkle sand over papers to cover glue.
2. When glue has been completely covered, assist children in carefully lifting papers and pouring sand back into bowls. Sand will adhere to glued areas.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, a man lived in the desert and told people a very important message. Deserts have a lot of sand. Let's make pictures with sand.**
- ➔ **Andrew, thank you for handing Lauren the glue. That was a good thing to do! What is a good thing you can do at your home?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Stop doing wrong and do good." Sometimes it's hard to know what good things to do. Jesus helps us learn ways to do good things.**



**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart.  
I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Stop doing wrong and do good." Psalm 34:14*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Prepare a pie tin or flat-bottomed bowl with about a half inch of sand for each child. Instead of making pictures on papers, younger children use fingers to draw designs in damp sand.

### For Older Children

Children use pencils to print "Do good" on papers. Children then trace over the letters with glue and cover with sand.

# Play to Learn

January 17

## Construction Center: Desert Blocks



### Collect

Bible, blocks, brown paper bags, blue fabric or towel; optional—toy trees.

### Do

1. Children use blocks to outline a desert. Children tear pieces of brown paper bags and crumple to represent desert sand.
2. In the middle of the desert, children make an oasis by placing blue fabric or towel to represent water, and stacking blocks around the water to represent palm trees. (Optional: Children place toy trees around water.)

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Stop doing wrong and do good.” Jesus helps us learn how to do good things. Let’s practice doing good things as we build a desert.**
- ➔ **Luis, Ashley wants to help build the desert. How can you help her? You can move over to give her room to build! That was a good thing to do.**
- ➔ **Nicholas, your foot knocked over Olivia’s tree. How can you do good? Thanks for saying sorry. If you move over here, you won’t knock her tree down again.**

**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*“I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of all your wonders.” Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*“Stop doing wrong and do good.” Psalm 34:14*

**God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.



### For Younger Children

Younger children have difficulty building representational objects. So as children play freely with the blocks and paper bags, use conversation to connect their actions to the lesson focus of doing good things. **Abigail, I see you handed Hayden a block. Thank you. Helping others is a good thing to do.**

### For Older Children

Provide plastic insects and bugs for children to add to their block desert.



### Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today’s Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

# Play to Learn

January 17

## Dramatic Play Center: Mail Service



### Collect

Bible, writing paper, pencils, envelopes, stickers; optional—an old computer keyboard.

### Do

1. Children pretend to write letters to friends or family.
2. Children place letters in envelopes and address the envelopes. Children place stickers on envelopes as if they were stamps.
3. Children take turns pretending to type on the computer keyboard.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, John told people important messages from God. Let's pretend to write messages to our friends and family.**
- ➔ **Gabrielle, who are you writing to? What do you want to tell that person?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Stop doing wrong and do good." Jesus wants us to do good things, and Jesus will help us. What are some ways to learn to do good things?** (Pray and ask Jesus. Talk to parents and teachers. Listen to the Bible.)

**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart.  
I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Stop doing wrong and do good." Psalm 34:14*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.



### For Younger Children

Bring junk mail and one or more shoulder bags. Children take turns pretending to be mail carriers, and distribute mail to other children.

### For Older Children

Print one or two sentences on a large sheet of paper ("I love you." "God loves you."). Children choose a sentence to copy on their paper. Children take the message home to give to a friend or family member.

# Listen to Learn

January 17

Matthew 3:1-6; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-18

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 32 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2* DVD or CD and player, ball, colored paper, scissors, brown paper bag.

## Greet Each Other

Children sit in a circle. Hand a child the ball. As you clap your hands, children pass the rock around the circle. When you stop clapping, the child holding the ball says "Hello, everyone!" Repeat several times.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 3. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 32 pictures.

**What are the names of your cousins? Listen to hear about a man whose cousin was Jesus!**



Jesus had a cousin named John. John lived in the desert all by himself. John wore clothes made of scratchy camel hair and he wore a leather belt.

John **ate** food he found in the desert: insects like grasshoppers, and sweet honey.

God had a special job for John. God wanted John to tell people that Jesus is God's Son.



John stayed near the Jordan **River**. He told people to get ready for Jesus.

John told people, "God will forgive you for doing wrong things. But stop doing wrong things. Do good things."

People wanted to know good things to do. They asked John, "What should we do?"



John answered, "If you have two coats, **give** one coat to a person who has no coat. If you have extra food, give some to hungry people."

John told some other people more ways to do what is right. "Don't take money that doesn't belong to you," he said.

He told some soldiers, "Don't say someone did wrong when you know that person did NOT do anything wrong. Tell only what is true."



Many people **listened** to John. They stopped doing wrong things. They promised to do what is right. Then John baptized them. He used water to show that God forgives people for the wrong things they do. John helped people learn to do good things.

**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart.  
I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Stop doing wrong and do good." Psalm 34:14

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

## Talk About the Story

**What is one of the things John told people?** (Stop doing wrong things. Give to people who need help.) **John told people very important messages from God. God wanted people to know that they needed to stop doing wrong things and start doing good things. Jesus came to help us do good things. Jesus helps us learn to do good things. What can we do when we need Jesus' help to do good things?** (Talk to parents and teachers. Pray. Listen to Bible stories and verses to learn about good things to do.)

## Sing to God

**Let's sing a song about how Jesus loves us.** Lead children in singing "Jesus Loves Me" (on DVD or track 7 on CD). **Jesus loves us. He will help us learn to do good things.**

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Psalm 34:14, say verse aloud. **It isn't always easy to do good things. Sometimes we don't know what good things to do. Jesus will help us learn to do good things for others.** Children form a large circle. Lead children in repeating the verse several times. When saying the words "Stop doing wrong," children stand still. When saying the words "and do good," children walk in a circle.

## Pray to God

Pray, **Dear God, we want to do good things because we love You. Thank You for sending Jesus to help us learn good things to do. Thank You for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.**

**Option:** On a large sheet of paper, print the words "Jesus helps us learn to do good things." Ask children to name good things Jesus helps them to do (Share with others. Be kind.). Print children's responses on paper; place paper where parents can read it when class is dismissed.

## Praise to God

Make two identical sets of color-paper strips using a variety of colors, two strips for each child. Repeat colors if needed. Put one set of strips into a paper bag. Distribute other set of strips to children. Invite children to pass the bag as you play "How Good It Is" (track 17 on CD). When you stop the music, the child holding the bag removes a strip. Child holding strip of the same color tells a good thing to do (take turns, tell the truth, share, say kind words, etc.). Repeat as time and interest allow.

## CD Note:

All cd references included as part of the Bible curriculum refer to the **Gospel Light Music CD 2**. You may use this cd and activities in addition to the suggested Bible unit songs on your **Dawson Preschool Worship Favorites** and **Growing with God** cds.

# John Baptizes Jesus

January 24

## Bible Story

Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11;  
Luke 3:21-22; John 1:19-34

## Teacher Challenge

People had come in droves to listen to John, repent and be baptized. To these people, God introduced His promised One. God's Spirit descended like a dove to rest upon Jesus and then the Father said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased" (see Matthew 1:17). John and the others who witnessed this must have been filled with wonder at this message.

- ➔ When were you last filled with wonder at the realization of who Jesus really is?
- ➔ What gets in the way of worshiping Jesus as the Son of God, our Savior and King?

Invite God to refresh your heart with that same wonder that filled those who saw and heard God's introduction of His Son. Ask Him to help you prepare the hearts of the children in your class and give you eagerness to introduce His Son to them—there is no one more worthy of a grand introduction!

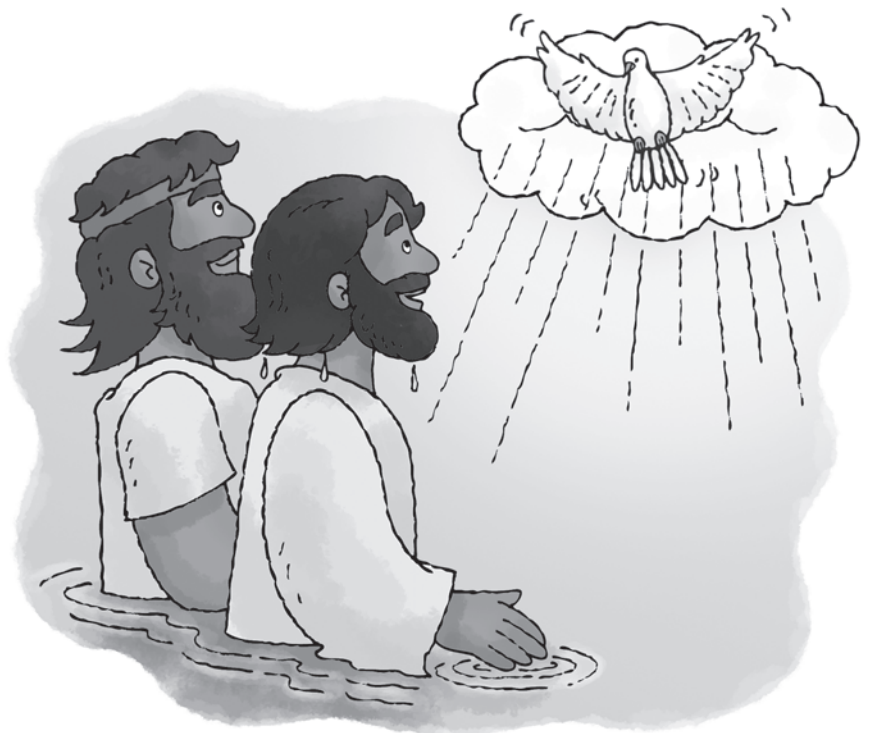
**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart.  
I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus is the Son of God." John 1:34

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

## Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.
- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.
- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Psalm 92:1), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 1 Overview Sheet.



## Active Game Center: Duck, Duck, Verse



### Collect

Bible.

### Do

1. Children sit in a circle on the floor. Children play a game like Duck, Duck, Goose. Walk around the circle and pat children gently on the head or shoulder as you say "Duck."
2. After a moment, say, "Verse." The child whose head was patted gets up, repeats with you "Jesus is the Son of God" and then walks once around the circle. Repeat game until each child has had a turn to walk around the circle.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "Jesus is the Son of God." God sent Jesus because God loves us. God loves every one of us in this room. Let's play a game together.**
- ➔ **Brandon, who lives in your house? God loves your mom, dad, and baby sister!**
- ➔ **In today's Bible story, John told people a special message. The message was that Jesus is God's Son. Anna, who is someone you could tell this important message to? God loves your friend, Zoey, too!**



**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Jesus is the Son of God." John 1:34*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Younger children hold hands and walk around in a circle. When you say, "Jesus is the Son of God," everyone sits down.

### For Older Children

After each round, all children say the verse together before the new volunteer continues with the game.



### Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today's Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

# Play to Learn

January 24

## Construction Center: River Play



### Collect

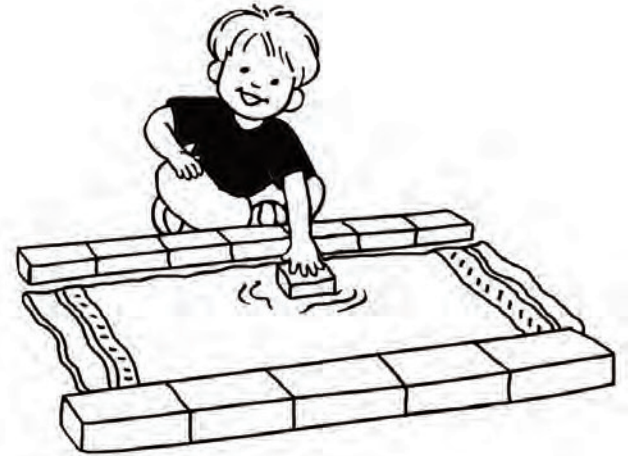
Bible, blue fabric or towels, blocks, toy people.

### Do

1. Lay the blue fabric or towels on the floor as a pretend river. Children use blocks to build the river banks.
2. Children use smaller blocks as boats on the river and take toy people for rides up and down the river.

### Talk About

- **In today's Bible story, people went to a river to hear John tell them about Jesus. Let's build a river!**
- **Kayla, when have you gone to play in the water with your family? Where did you go? What are some of the things you did there?**
- **James, what are some of the ways we can learn about Jesus?** (Listen to Bible stories. Talk to parents and teachers.)
- **The Bible says, "Jesus is the Son of God." God loved all the people in the world so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be born. I'm glad God sent His Son, Jesus. Pray, Dear God, we are glad that You sent Jesus. We love You!**



**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Jesus is the Son of God." John 1:34*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Provide toy boats for children to use on the water.

### For Older Children

Children arrange small rocks as stepping stones, and fringe green construction paper to place as grass along sides of river for river banks.

### ART: Watercolor Bible Picture





# Play to Learn

January 24

## Dramatic Play Center: Sing a Song



### Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #2* CD and player, aluminum foil, ruler, craft sticks, rhythm instruments.

### Prepare

For each child, tear off a 6-inch (15-cm) length of aluminum foil.

### Do

1. Children crumple foil around end of craft sticks to make pretend microphones.
2. Children pretend to be a singing group. Using pretend microphones and rhythm instruments, children sing "How Good It Is" (track 17 on CD). Repeat, giving children an opportunity to exchange instruments.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, "Jesus is the Son of God." God sent Jesus to be born because God loves us. That makes me glad! One thing we can do to show we are glad God sent Jesus, is to sing songs about loving God. Let's pretend we are a band and sing a song about loving God.**
- ➔ **I'm glad that God loves us. I'm glad that God sent Jesus to be born. Sarah, what are some ways you can tell God about the things that make you glad?** (Sing songs. Pray.)
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus. Knowing Jesus loves me makes me glad!**



**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Jesus is the Son of God." John 1:34*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Instead of making microphones, children use rhythm instruments while music plays.

### For Older Children

Older children make up motions to do while singing "How Good It Is."

# Listen to Learn

January 24

Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:19-34

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 33 pictures from *Bible Story Pictures #2*, *Preschool Music #2* DVD or CD and player, beanbag.

## Greet Each Other

**Let's see how fast we can pass the beanbag**

**and say our names.** Hold a beanbag and say your name. Then give beanbag to child next to you who says his or her name. Continue until the beanbag has been

passed all the way around the circle and every child has had an opportunity to say his or her name.

**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart.  
I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Jesus is the Son of God." John 1:34

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to John 1. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 33 pictures.

**What is something you have waited for? A turn at a game? To go to the park? God's people waited a long time for something special. Listen to find out what it was.**

John was telling people about God. John said that God would soon send His Son. "Get ready for the One God promised to send," John said.



Many, many people came to **hear** John. John told the people they needed to tell God they were sorry for doing wrong.

John baptized many people with water to show that they were sorry for doing wrong.



Some leaders heard about John. They sent messengers to talk to John. They asked, "Are you the One God promised to send?"

John said, "No. I am **not** the One God promised to send. I was sent to get the people ready for Him. God is about to send Him. The One God will send is much more important than I am!"



One day, Jesus came to John. He asked John to baptize Him. John said, "I need You to baptize me! You don't need to be baptized."

Jesus said, "This is what **God** wants us to do. I want to obey God."

So John baptized Jesus. Then something surprising happened! From heaven, God's Spirit, looking like a dove, came down to Jesus.



God spoke from heaven. "This is My Son, whom I love. I am pleased with Him!" This had never happened before. Everyone was **amazed**.

The next day, John saw Jesus. John pointed to Jesus. "There He is," John said. "Look. Jesus will forgive people for the wrong things they have done!" Jesus was the One God had promised to send. Jesus is God's Son.

## Talk About the Story

**What did John and the other people hear God say when Jesus was baptized?** (“This is My Son.”) **A long time before, God had promised His people that He would send His Son. God’s people waited a long time and then God kept His promise. He sent Jesus to be born, just like He promised. I’m glad God sent His Son, Jesus. What is a way we can show that we are glad God sent Jesus?** (Tell others about Jesus. Sing songs and listen to stories about Jesus.)

## Sing to God

Play “Jesus Loves Me” (on DVD or track 7 on CD). Invite children to sing along with you. **Let’s sing a song about God’s love.** Lead children in singing song and doing suggested motions. **God loved all the people in the world so much, He sent His Son, Jesus, to be born!**

**Option:** Provide one or two rhythm instruments for the children to use while singing “Jesus Loves Me.” Children hand the instruments to other children as song is repeated.

## Hear and Say God’s Word

Holding your Bible open to John 1:34, say verse aloud. **Jesus loves us and helps us when we ask. I’m glad that God sent His Son, Jesus.** Lead children in saying the verse as a group several times. Then have children form a circle. Each child repeats the verse after the teacher until all children have said the verse. If you have a large group, invite three or four children to say the verse with you.

## Pray to God

**We can thank God for loving us and sending His Son, Jesus. Let’s say these words together as our prayer: “Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to be born.”** Lead children in repeating the prayer with you.

## Praise to God

As you say the Bible verse, children stand up and sit down on alternate words (stand on “Jesus,” “the,” “of” and sit on “is,” “Son,” “God”). After a few rounds, have children suggest other combinations of motions (bend to touch the floor and raise arms in the air, spread arms wide and fold arms on chest, etc.).

## CD Note:

All cd references included as part of the Bible curriculum refer to the **Gospel Light Music CD 2**. You may use this cd and activities in addition to the suggested Bible unit songs on your **Dawson Preschool Worship Favorites** and **Growing with God** cds.

# Jesus Chooses Helpers

January 31

## Bible Story

Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:27-28

## Teacher Challenge

Simon Peter and Andrew were casting their net into the lake. But as the net flew out over the water, they heard Jesus calling their names. In the middle of their work, they had a choice to make. Once they heard Jesus' voice, they left their nets and went with Him immediately; they followed because the One who called them was worthy of their eager obedience! Jesus called them to know Him, to make Him the core of their lives and be empowered by His Spirit.

- ➔ How did Jesus call to you this week in the middle of your work?
- ➔ What can you do to listen and respond when Jesus calls?

Jesus gives you this same call—to obey Him, know Him, live Him, share Him. Look for ways you can focus on Jesus in the middle of your busyness. Then let Him live out His life through you. He will enable you to go beyond words in teaching your children of new life in Jesus—by showing them with your own!

**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart.  
I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
"Come, follow me," Jesus said." Matthew 4:19

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

## Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, 🕒 please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Psalm 92:1), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus), and the Unit Goals listed on the Spring Unit 1 Overview Sheet.



# Play to Learn

January 31

## Active Game Center: Lead the Way



### Collect

Bible, yarn; optional—tape.

### Prepare

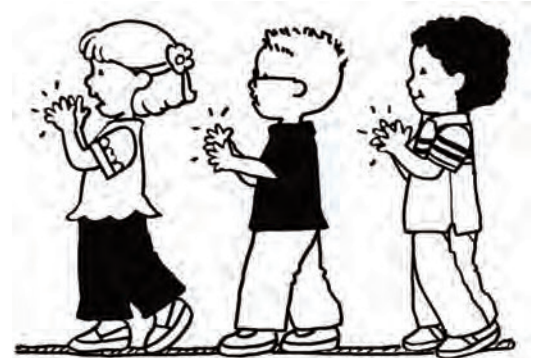
With yarn, make a continuous path through an open area in classroom. The path may cross itself in several places, but it should end at the same point where it began. (Optional: Tape yarn in several places to secure to floor.)

### Do

1. Lead children as they play a game like Follow the Leader. As you and the children walk along the yarn path, call out and lead motions for children to do (jumping jacks, touch toes, clap hands, hop on one foot, etc.).
2. When you come to a point where the yarn crosses itself, choose which way to turn. Continue as time and interest allow.

### Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Come, follow me,” Jesus said.” Let’s play a Follow the Leader game.**
- ➔ **Jesus’ helpers followed Jesus because they wanted to learn more about Him. Victor, what are some ways we can learn about God and His Son, Jesus?** (Listen to Bible stories. Sing songs about Jesus. Talk with parents and teachers.)
- ➔ **Pray, Dear Jesus, we want to learn about You. Help us to follow You!**



**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*“I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart.  
I will tell of all your wonders.” Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*“Come, follow me,” Jesus said.” Matthew 4:19*

**God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Make the yarn path a large circle. Children walk around the circle and perform motions as you call them out.

### For Older Children

After several moments, move to the end of the line and allow the child who has been behind you to become the line leader. Continue to call out motions as needed to guide the line leader. If a child does not wish to lead the line, he or she simply moves to the end of the line. Play continues until each child has had a turn to be the line leader.

# Play to Learn

January 31

## Art Center: Play Dough Followers



### Collect

Bible, play dough; optional—cookie cutters shaped like people.

### Do

1. Children use play dough to make people shapes. (Optional: Children use the cookie cutters to cut people shapes out of play dough.)
2. As each child completes a play-dough person, he or she places it in the center of the table. Children count play-dough people until they have made 12.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Jesus chose helpers. The helpers learned about God and Jesus. Then they went to tell others. Jesus chose 12 helpers. Let's make 12 people out of play dough to remember Jesus' 12 helpers.**
- ➔ **Samantha, what do you know about Jesus?** (Jesus loves me. Jesus is God's Son.) **What can your play-dough person say to tell Jason's play-dough person about Jesus?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Come, follow me," Jesus said." Jesus' helpers followed Him so that they could learn more about Him. We can learn more about Jesus, too. Pray briefly, Dear God, please help us to learn more about You and Your Son, Jesus.**



**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Come, follow me," Jesus said." Matthew 4:19*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

### For Younger Children

Younger children roll play dough into balls. Count balls with children.

### For Older Children

Children make one or more boats from play dough for their play-dough people. Explain to children that some of Jesus' followers were fishermen.



### Puzzle Center:

Give each child a Bible puzzle worksheet. Provide pencils, crayons, or marker. As the children complete the puzzles and color pages, use the conversation suggestions on the page. Remind the children that a copy of today's Bible verse and Bible story is on the back of the sheet so they can share with their families when they go home.

## Construction Center: Going Fishing



### Collect

Bible; Lesson 21 Going Fishing Pictures from *Growing with God* CD-ROM; blocks; yarn; scissors; rulers and/or wooden dowels; magnets; large paper clips; tape; blue paper, fabric, or towels.

### Prepare

Make one copy for each child of Going Fishing Pictures and cut apart. Tape paper clip to back of each fish. Cut yarn into lengths approximately 4-feet (1.2-m) long. Tie one end of each length of yarn to a ruler or wooden dowel to make a fishing pole. Tie a magnet to the other end of each fishing pole.

### Do

1. Children use blocks to outline a boat shape that is large enough for several children to stand inside. Children lay blue paper, fabric, or towels around the boat to represent water. Scatter prepared Going Fishing Pictures on top of the sea.
2. Children kneel in boat and use fishing poles to catch fish. Once all fish have been caught, children scatter fish over water and allow other children a turn.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, some men were fishing when Jesus came to talk to them. Let's pretend to go fishing in a boat!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Come, follow me," Jesus said." Jesus' helpers followed Him so that they could learn more about Him. We can learn about God and His Son, Jesus, too.**
- ➔ Pray briefly, **Dear God, please help us learn more about You and Your Son, Jesus.**



### For Younger Children

Lay a blanket or towel on the floor as a net. Scatter Going Fishing Pictures on floor. Children pick up fish and place them in net.

### For Older Children

Children count the number of fish they catch. Once all the fish have been caught, children count all the fish in the boat.

**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Come, follow me," Jesus said." Matthew 4:19*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

## Dramatic Play Center: Tell the News



### Collect

Bible, old telephones and cell phones, toy phones.

### Do

Children pretend to call friends or family member to tell them messages. Children can also pretend to send text messages to friends or family members on cell phones.

### Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Jesus chose helpers. The helpers learned about God and Jesus. Then they went to tell others. They had important news to share! Let's pretend we are telling friends or family important news over the phone.**
- ➔ **Cameron, where can we learn about God and Jesus?** (At church. At home.) **Hailey, what are some of the things we do at church to learn about God and Jesus?** (Sing songs about God. Say Bible verses. Listen to Bible stories.)
- ➔ **We can learn about God and Jesus at our homes, too! Jonathan, what is a way to learn about Jesus when you are at your home?** (Talk about God with parents. Pray to God. Listen to Bible stories.)
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Come, follow me," Jesus said." Jesus said this to His helpers because Jesus wanted them to learn more about Him and about God. I'm glad we can learn about God and Jesus! We can tell others what we learn, too!**

**Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:**  
*"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1*

**Weekly Bible Verse:**  
*"Come, follow me, Jesus said." Matthew 4:19*

**God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):**  
I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.



### For Younger Children

Younger children have difficulty waiting their turn. Provide as many phones as possible, but also provide paper and pencils or pens for children to pretend to write messages.

### For Older Children

Make a set of telephones with paper cups and string. Poke a hole in the bottom of two paper cups. Tie a knot in one end of a length of string and thread it through the bottom of each cup, tying the other end to secure. Children hold cups and move away from each other until string is taut. One child speaks into his or her cup while the other child holds his or her cup to ear.



# Listen to Learn

January 31

Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 5:27-28

## Collect

Bible, Bible Story 36 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 DVD or CD* and player, index cards, star stickers.

## Prepare

Place a star sticker on one or two index cards.

## Greet Each Other

Children sit on the floor in a circle. Say, **(Rebecca and Ian), come, follow me.** Named children get up and walk behind you. Continue calling children until all children are walking in a line behind you. End activity by walking in a circle and then saying, **Stop! And now let's all sit down!**

## Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 4. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 36 pictures.

**When have you seen a fish? Some people catch fish for food. Let's hear a story about some men whose jobs were to catch fish.**



One day Jesus walked by the big blue Sea of Galilee. He saw some fishermen in their boats. They were **throwing** their big fishing nets out into the water. Jesus knew two of these fishermen.

"Peter! Andrew!" Jesus called. Peter and Andrew looked to see who was calling their names! When they saw Jesus, they pulled their nets into their boat. They hurried to see Jesus.



When Peter and Andrew came to the beach, Jesus said, "**Come** and help Me tell people about God."

Peter and Andrew obeyed. They went with Jesus. They wanted to learn more about Him. They wanted to help others learn about Jesus, too. Now Jesus had two helpers.

Later Jesus and His two friends saw two other fishermen. "James and John!" Jesus called. "Come with Me!"



Right away, James and John went, too. They were glad to go with Jesus. Now Jesus had **four** helpers.

On another day, Jesus walked by a man named Matthew. Matthew was at work. "Follow Me, Matthew," said Jesus.

Matthew got right up. He left everything! Now Jesus had FIVE friends to help Him! On other days, Jesus asked other people to be His helpers—until He had 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, **12** helpers.



Jesus told His 12 helpers many things about God. Then He sent them to different towns so that they could tell other people about God. Jesus' friends did just what Jesus said to do. They told other people about God!

## Spring Unit 1 Bible Verse:

"I will praise You, oh Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of all your wonders." Psalm 92:1

## Weekly Bible Verse:

"Come, follow me," Jesus said." Matthew 4:19

## God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):

I can learn about God and His Son, Jesus.

## Talk About the Story

**How many helpers did Jesus have?** (Twelve.) **Jesus' helpers were happy to be with Jesus. They were happy to learn about God. I'm glad we can learn about God and His Son, Jesus, too. What are some ways we can learn about God and Jesus?** (Listen to Bible stories. Talk to parents and teachers. Sing songs about God and Jesus. Say Bible verses.)

## Sing to God

**Let's sing a song about Jesus' love.** Lead children in singing "Jesus Loves Me" (on DVD or track 7 on CD). **Singing songs is a good way to learn about God and His Son, Jesus.**

## Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Matthew 4:19, say verse aloud. **Jesus' helpers followed Him everywhere He went. They wanted to learn more about God and Jesus. Saying Bible verses is a good way to learn about God and Jesus.** Lead children in saying the verse. Have children suggest motions for each phrase of the verse (beckon for "Come," walk in place for "follow me," hands cupped around mouth for "Jesus said.>").

**Option:** If you take a weekly offering during this worship time, explain to children that the money is used to help people learn about God. **Giving money is one way to show our love for God and help others learn about Him.**

## Pray to God

**We can ask God to help us learn about Him and His Son, Jesus.** Invite each volunteer to pray this brief prayer: **Dear God, we love You. Please help us learn about You and Jesus.**

## Praise to God

**We can learn about God and His Son, Jesus. Let's play a game to talk about what we know about God and Jesus.** Lay index cards, including the one or two with star stickers, facedown in a circle on the floor. Children walk around card circle while you play "How Good It Is" (track 17 on CD). After a few moments, stop the music. Each child picks up the nearest card. Children with star cards tell something about God or Jesus. Shuffle cards, place facedown in circle, and play again.

## CD Note:

All cd references included as part of the Bible curriculum refer to the **Gospel Light Music CD 2**. You may use this cd and activities in addition to the suggested Bible unit songs on your **Dawson Preschool Worship Favorites** and **Growing with God** cds.