

LITTLE LEARNERS

LEADER GUIDE
SPRING 2024



GODS
WORD
FOR LIFE
kids

GOD'S WORD



FOR LIFE

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Little Learners Leader Guide

Manufactured in USA, March 2024, 6032411
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LITTLE LEARNERS LEADER GUIDE
SPRING 2024

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ES* stands for Easter Sunday

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God's Word for Life Kids Community



@GodsWordForLife

FAQS ABOUT GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE

Is there a family devotional for Little Learners?

Family devotional activities are included on the front page of the Little Learners Devotional and Activity Pages. In addition to a learning activity and coloring page, each lesson includes a God's Word for Families home-connection section, giving parents and caregivers ideas to help children play through each lesson at home. To promote discipleship in the home, send each student home with an activity paper and encourage families to revisit the lesson throughout the week with these fun activities.

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

Yes, join our Facebook group:

God's Word for Life Kids Community

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

Facebook: God's Word for Life
Kids Community



What resources do I need to teach Little Learners?

- *Leader Guide (LG)*: This 96-page guide provides the lesson content for leaders and teachers to present in Sunday school, home school, or any teaching environment. It is available in both print and digital formats.
- *Little Learners Devotional and Activity Pages*: For each lesson, every student needs an activity page. The interactive activities can be done during class or at home. This resource is available in both print and digital formats.
- *Resource Kit (RK)*: This kit provides essential supplements to make each lesson come alive. Some lessons require material only found in the Resource Kit. It is also available in both print and digital formats.

What is a whole-church curriculum?

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

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

What are the series songs for this quarter?

- *Series 1*: "Down from His Glory" by PPH Kids Music
- *Series 2*: "At the Name" by UPCI Music
- *Series 3*: "Forever I AM" by PPH Kids Music

The Resource Kit provides an MP3 **DR**, lyrics **DR**, and a lyric video **QL** for these songs.

What does **DR** mean in the lesson?

A **DR** icon means this item is provided as a digital resource in the Resource Kit. To access this material, a resource kit must be purchased separately from the Leader Guide, and then the digital resources must be downloaded. The downloads come as zipped files that require a computer. (Smartphones [and some tablets] cannot open zipped folders without specialized apps.) To download the **DR** material, follow the instructions on page 3.

LEGEND

DR Digital Resource
in Resource Kit

LG Leader Guide

MW Memory Work

RK Resource Kit

QL Video Quick Links document

TAG Truth about God

TML Truth for My Life

How do I purchase and download my digital resources?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

FAQS ABOUT GOD'S WORD FOR LIFE

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


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



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




On Pinterest page, type "<https://www.pinterest.com/GodsWordforLife/>" (or scan the QR code) to find a page pinned with Train Depot ideas, snacks, and activities.

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

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

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

In conjunction with ABLE Ministry, the digital resources for the Kindergarten, Early Elementary, Late Elementary, and MOVE! kids' church levels provide a special needs supplement to the Leader Guide (LG). Teachers can use this document alongside the LG. The Little Learners LG does not have this type of supplement because the activities are typically applicable for students with special needs.

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

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



ABLE Ministry
on Facebook



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

For children, God's Word for Life is broken down into five levels: Little Learners, Kindergarten, Early Elementary, Late Elementary, and MOVE! kids' church. While a recommended age is provided, each level is distinguished by the style of teaching. For children ages 2–5, the relevant levels include the following:

- **Little Learners** is written for classes with a blend of toddlers and preschoolers. Ideas are given for both age groups. These children show up to church ready to play, so a variety of activities help them play through the lesson. This level's content is student-driven.
- **Kindergarten** is for children currently in preschool or kindergarten. These children have been introduced to a classroom setting, but they still require large amounts of playtime. This level's content is a mix of being student- and teacher-driven.

Classes with students who haven't yet entered preschool will be best served using the Little Learners curriculum. Similarly, if a three-year-old has learned to read and has entered preschool, the child may be best served using the Kindergarten material.

WHAT ARE THE KEY FEATURES OF EACH LESSON?

As you browse through the Leader Guide, take note of these features:

BASICS

- *Truth about God (TAG):* This statement summarizes what the Bible story reveals about God. Everything you teach in the lesson should point to the Truth about God.
- *Truth for My Life (TML):* This statement summarizes the lesson's application. Coming out of the lesson, students should be ready to proclaim and enact this simple truth.
- *Teacher Devotional:* On the first page of each lesson, this section provides takeaways to help teachers prayerfully prepare for the lesson.
- *Supplies:* This section on the second page of each lesson provides an overview of the materials necessary for the essential activities.

PREPARE THE HEART

This opening section of the lesson contains activities to introduce the lesson's Truth about God.

- *Connect:* Each lesson starts with opening activities designed to gather students, take attendance, collect offering, and most importantly, introduce the Truth about God.
- *Video Introduction:* Video suggestions are provided, designed to capture students' attention. These videos are optional and not essential to teaching the lesson.
- *Opener:* To start each lesson, these opening activities focus students and introduce the Truth about God (TAG). Then to further illustrate the TAG, choose from the two options based on the composition of your students.

INSTRUCT THE HEART

This middle section of the lesson tells the Bible story.

- *Bible Lesson Verse(s):* The verse or verses highlighted here capture the essence behind the Bible story.
- *Lesson Lead-In:* This brief activity prepares students' minds to receive the Bible story that is about to be told.
- *Bible Lesson:* This age-appropriate telling of the Bible story is designed to keep students engaged as you focus their hearts on the Truth about God.

CONNECT TO THE HEART

This application section of the lesson contains activities designed to help students internalize the Truth for My Life.

- *Application Activity:* Coming out of the Bible lesson, use these activities to introduce the TML. To further illustrate the application, choose from the two options based on the composition of your students.
- *Prayer and Response:* Close each lesson by praying an echo prayer with students.

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

In order to learn, Little Learners need to play. At the end of each lesson, find two pages of activities to work into the lesson plan at your discretion. As students do these activities, repeat the Truth about God and the Truth for My Life again and again (and again). These additional activities include Worship, Memory Work, and options of a game, snack, and craft.

11

I KNOW WHO JESUS IS

John 1:1, 14, 29–34

SERIES AIM

To study passages in John that reveal the purpose behind God's presence.

SERIES MEMORY VERSE

John 1:14

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.”

SERIES MEMORY WORDS

Jesus is God. Jesus is with us.

BIBLE LESSON VERSE

John 1:14



TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God wants us to know His name.

TRUTH FOR MY LIFE

I know God's name is Jesus.

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

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read John 1:1, 14, 29–34. Prayerfully consider what these verses say:

ABOUT GOD

As a shadow of things to come, Jewish families in Exodus 12 marked their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificial lamb to spare them from God's judgment on Egypt. In John 1:33, John the Baptist revealed he was sent by God to baptize until the Messiah was revealed. When John saw the Spirit descend like a dove during Jesus' baptism, John knew the Lamb of God had arrived and the sins of the world would soon be taken away.

TO YOU AS A TEACHER

Recent scientific research has revealed that a lamb's blood has the power to overcome the venom of a rattlesnake's bite. Jesus, as God revealed in flesh, provided His sinless blood to save us from the deadly bite of sin. Thank God for the blood.

TO YOUR STUDENTS

Some of your students will already know God's name; others will not yet. During this lesson, highlight the name of Jesus often. In addition, when you see your students outside of class, ask them what God's name is. Use every opportunity to reinforce the importance of knowing that God has a name, and His name is important.

SUPPLIES

PREPARE THE HEART

Connect

- Attendance poster **RK DR** and stickers **RK DR**

Video Introduction

- “What’s Your Name?” by Finny the Shark **QL**
- “My Name Song” by CoComelon **QL**
- “The Name Game” by Shirley Elli **QL**

Opener

- *Per student:* Name tag sticker, crayon
- Pencil

Toddlers

- No supplies necessary

Preschoolers

- Alphabet blocks

INSTRUCT THE HEART

Lesson Lead-In

- No supplies necessary

Bible Lesson

- Bible, baby doll wrapped in a blanket, plastic tub of water, several dolls, small flashlight, Pregnant Woman visual **RK DR**

CONNECT TO THE HEART

- No supplies necessary

Toddlers

- No supplies necessary

Preschoolers

- Index cards, marker, whiteboard and marker

Prayer and Response

- Letter to families, Spiritual IEP **DR**
- *Per student:* Little Learners Devotional and Activity Page, Child Information forms **DR**

Worship

- *Series song:* “Down from His Glory” **QL**

Memory Work

- Series 1 MW poster **RK DR**, ball

Craft Option

- Colorful construction paper, scissors, marker, glue, craft sticks (1 per student)

Game Option

- 10 index cards, marker

Snack Option

- *Per student:* Paper lunch sack, prepackaged snack, drink

PREPARE THE HEART

Connect: My Name

Instruction

- As students enter, collect offering and record attendance.
- *Ask:* Do you know your name? *Each student says his or her name.*
- Have students recite the Truth about God (TAG): “God wants us to know His name.”

Application: God has a name, and He wants us to know it. God’s name is Jesus.

Video Introduction

- When it is time to get students’ attention, play one of these short videos about names:
 - » “What’s Your Name?” by Finny the Shark **QL**
 - » “My Name Song” by CoComelon **QL**
 - » “The Name Game” by Shirley Ellis **QL**

Opener: Who Knows God’s Name?

Preparation

- Using a pencil, lightly write each student’s name on a name-tag sticker.

Instruction

- Distribute the prepared name tags and crayons.
- Assist students in tracing over their names. Then place the name tags on students.
- *Ask:* What is your name? *Students shout their names.*
- *Ask:* What is God’s name? *Students shout, “Jesus.”*

Application: You know your name. God wants us to know His name.

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

To learn how to access the videos provided with the curriculum, see page 3.

Toddlers (Ages 2–3)*Instruction*

- Help students sit in a circle.
- *Say:* When I say your name, you should stand up and sit back down.
 - » When I say the name of God, everyone should stand up and shout, “Hallelujah,” and then sit back down.
- *Ask:* What is God’s name? *Jesus*
- One at a time, say students’ names, indicating they should stand quickly and sit back down.
 - » Occasionally say, “Jesus,” and have everyone stand and shout, “Hallelujah.”

Application: You know your name. God wants us to know His name.

Preschoolers (Ages 3–4)*Instruction*

- *Ask:* What is your name? Using these blocks, can you find the letters to spell your name?
 - » Assist students in finding the letters and spelling their names.
- *Ask:* What is God’s name? Using these blocks, can you find the letters to spell God’s name?
 - » Assist students in finding the letters to spell JESUS.

Application: You know your name. God wants us to know His name.

INSTRUCT THE HEART**Bible Lesson Verse**

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

Lesson Lead-In: Names I Know*Instruction*

- Ask students to identify different people they know and say those people’s names.
- *Say:* We know a lot of names, but the most important name we can know is God’s name.
- *Ask:* What is God’s name? *Jesus*

Application: In our Bible story today, we will learn about Jesus.

Bible Lesson: I Know Who Jesus Is (John 1:1, 14, 29–34)*Preparation*

- Wrap a baby doll in a blanket.
- Fill a plastic tub with water. Gather several dolls to baptize.
- Locate a small flashlight.

Instruction

- Show your Bible and sing “The B-I-B-L-E.”
- Show the Book of John in your Bible.
 - » *Say:* The Bible is God’s storybook. Our story comes from the Bible.

Dim the lights and read John 1:1: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” *Shine the flashlight on the open Bible.* The Bible said God would come to earth one day. He needed to come to earth so everyone could be saved. For a long, long time, everyone waited, waited, and waited. *Wait for a moment, looking at your watch.*

- *Ask:* Do you like to wait?

Ready to network with Apostolic teachers from around the world? Join the God’s Word for Life Kids Community on Facebook. For more info, see page 2.

Truth for My Life: I know God's name is Jesus.

Shine the flashlight on the Pregnant Woman visual **RR DR**. Waiting for God to come was like waiting for a baby to be born. Have you ever waited for someone to have a baby? . . . Even though we cannot see the baby yet, we get ready for the baby to come. If the parents find out whether the baby is a boy or a girl, they may have a party to let everyone know, and sometimes they let everyone know what the baby's name will be. God knew He was going to come as a baby, but people here on earth couldn't see the baby with their own eyes yet.



Read John 1:14: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." Finally, the day came when baby Jesus was born. *Shine the light on the baby doll wrapped in a blanket.* Some people knew baby Jesus was God—for example, His mommy and daddy knew—but most people still didn't know how special baby Jesus was.

Just like other babies, baby Jesus grew up. When Jesus was an adult, most people still didn't know He was God. Jesus had a cousin named John. People would go to John to be baptized.

- *Ask:* Do you know what it means to be baptized? *Demonstrate with a doll in the tub of water.*

One day Jesus went to John to be baptized. When Jesus came up out of the water, John saw the heavens open and the Holy Spirit come down on Jesus. *Baptize a doll and shine the flashlight from above.* This helped John know that Jesus was sent by God. Jesus was the one everyone was waiting for. John pointed to Jesus and said, "Jesus is sent by God. Everyone should follow Him." Finally, people could see God and call Him by name: Jesus.

God is real. God has a name. What is God's name? His name is Jesus. He wants us to know Him. We can know who He is.

Review the story with simple questions:

- What was everyone waiting for? *For God to come to us*
- Who was baby Jesus? *God*
- What did John do to Jesus? *Baptized Him*
- How did John know Jesus was special? *The heavens opened and the Holy Spirit came down on Jesus when He was baptized.*
- What is God's name? *Jesus*

CONNECT TO THE HEART

Praise Break

Instruction

- Help students spread out in the classroom.
- *Say:* We have learned that God came as a human.
- *Ask:* What is His name? *Jesus*
- *Say:* Jesus came to earth so we could be saved. If you are happy Jesus came to save you, cheer and say, "Yay!"
- *Say:* We can praise Jesus with our whole heart and with our body too. Let's praise Jesus:
 - » Raise your hands and wave them.
 - » Stomp your feet.
 - » Dance.
 - » Blink your eyes.
 - » Wiggle your nose.
 - » Snap your fingers.

Application: God's name is Jesus. Jesus is happy when we praise Him for saving us.

The Connect to the Heart section is designed to teach the Truth for My Life statement that implements the Bible lesson concepts into students' lives.

Toddlers (Ages 2–3)*Instruction*

- Help students stand around you in a circle.
- Spin around and then point at a student. Ask these questions:
 - » What is your name?
 - » What is God's name?
- Continue until every student has a chance to answer.

Application: We know God's name is Jesus.

Preschoolers (Ages 3–4)*Preparation*

- Write each student's name on an index card.
- Write JESUS on an index card.

Instruction

- On a whiteboard, write: JESUS.
 - » Point to each letter and have students say it aloud.
- Shuffle the prepared index cards and lay them out face down in a grid.
 - » Choose a card (be sure it's a student's name) and read the name aloud.
 - » That student chooses the next card.
 - » Continue having students choose cards until the name of JESUS is revealed. Then everyone cheers.

Application: We know God's name is Jesus.

Prayer and Response*Preparation*

- Write a letter to families, sharing the methods of communication (e.g., social media, text messages, or email) you will use throughout the quarter.
- Explain how you would like to become partners with them in discipling their children.
 - » Consider setting up an appointment with each family to discuss and fill out the Spiritual IEP **DR**.
 - » Include information about the lessons for the quarter and any special events planned for students.

Instruction

- Have students repeat the echo prayer.
 - Thank You, Jesus, . . . for being my friend.
 - I'm glad I know Your name.
 - I'm glad You know my name.
 - In Jesus' name, . . . amen.
- Send each student home with a Little Learners Devotional and Activity Page. Explain that the page has daily activities families can use for devotional playtime.
- As parents pick up their children, use the Child Information form **DR** to collect or update student information. Take note of any allergies or special situations the staff needs to be aware of this quarter.

Truth for My Life: I know God's name is Jesus.



WORSHIP

Supplies: Video Quick Links document [DR](#)

Instruction

- Guide students to follow your lead as you bend at the knees.
 - » Say: When I say, “What is God’s name?” and jump up, you jump up and shout, “Jesus.”
 - » Repeat several times and give Jesus a cheer.
- Teach the following song to the tune of “B-I-N-G-O”:

There is one God, He has a name,
And Jesus is His name-O.
J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S,
And Jesus is God’s name-O.
- **Series Song:** “Down from His Glory” by PPH Kids Music [QL](#)

Application: God came to earth so we can know who He is: Jesus.

GAME OPTION

Find the Name

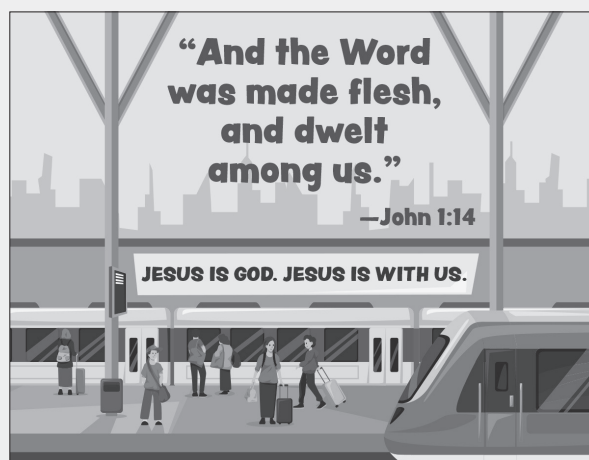
Preparation

- Make two sets of index cards that spell out JESUS, one letter per card.
- Hide one set of cards around the room.

Instruction

- Show one set of index cards to students, spelling out the name JESUS.
- Challenge students to work together to find the matching cards hidden in the room and spell the name of JESUS.

Application: God has a name. God’s name is Jesus.



MEMORY WORK

Series 1 Memory Verse

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

Series 1 Memory Words

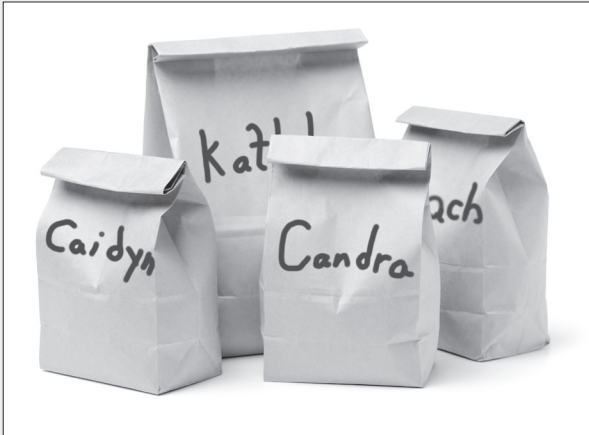
Jesus is God. Jesus is with us.

Preparation

- Evaluate your students and decide if they would be better at memorizing the Memory Verse or the Memory Words.

Instruction

- On the Series 1 MW poster [RK](#) [DR](#) read and point to each word as students echo you.
- Help students sit in a semicircle around you.
 - » Roll the ball to a student while you say the first phrase or sentence.
 - » Then help the student say the second phrase or sentence and return the ball to you.
- Play until every student has a turn and students become more familiar with the Memory Verse or Memory Words.



SNACK OPTION

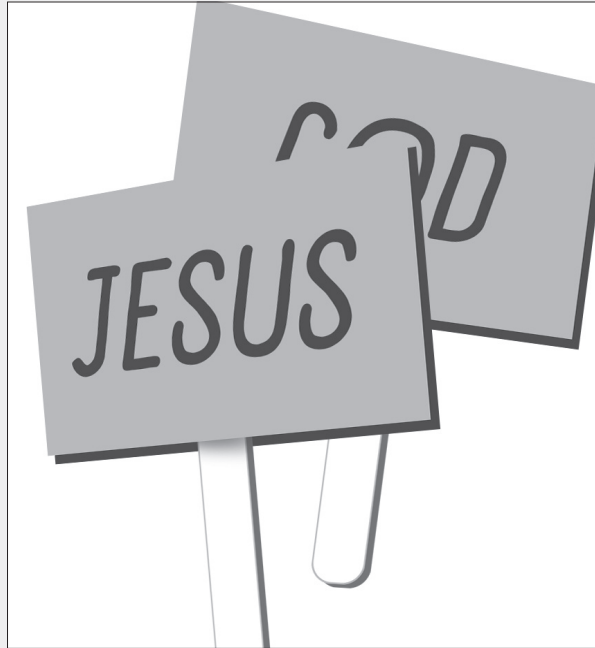
Snacks Bags

Preparation

- Write each student's name clearly on a paper lunch sack.
 - » Place a prepackaged snack inside each bag.

Instruction

- Display the prepared bags where students can see them.
 - » Tell students to retrieve the bag with their name on it. Assist as needed.
- Once everyone has a bag, serve drinks.
- Lead students in prayer, and then eat snack.



CRAFT OPTION

Show the Name

Preparation

- Cut construction paper into 3" x 4" rectangles. Each student needs two rectangles.
- For each student, write GOD on one rectangle and JESUS on another.

Instruction

- Give each student a set of rectangles and a craft stick.
 - » Help students read the words.
 - » Then help students glue the rectangles back-to-back with the craft stick between them as a handle.
- Once the glue dries, show students how to hold up the GOD sign as they ask, "What is God's name?" and then turn it to show that God's name is JESUS.

Application: God wants us to know His name. God's name is Jesus.