

Gospel Light's
KIDS' TIME

God's
BiG
Picture

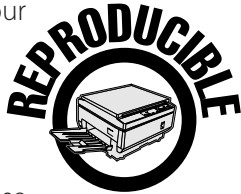


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Leader's Guide

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KidsTime Curriculum

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How to Use KidsTime

A few
kids, one
leader

If you teach alone, follow these simple steps to lead your class in a big picture look at God's Word.

1. Read "God's Big Picture Overview" on page 6 to get a clear view of what this course is all about.
2. Look at "Advice and Answers for Schedule Planning" on pages 7-10; choose the schedule that best fits your situation and decide which centers you will include.
3. Read the tip articles (pp. 11-21) for each center you will lead, taking note of the ways you can make each center an effective learning experience for the kids in your class.

Several
kids, more
than one
teacher

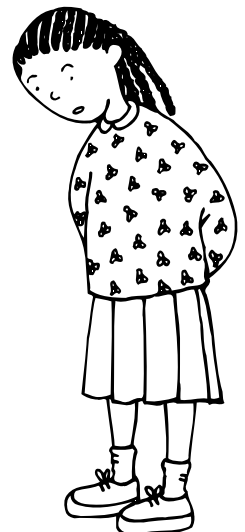
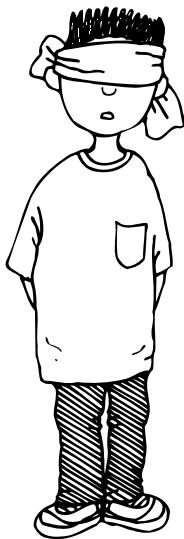
If you teach with one or more other teachers, follow the above three steps and add one more!

Decide if each teacher will lead his or her class in all of the activities or if each teacher will lead only one activity for groups of students who rotate between the centers.

Lots of
kids, several
teachers, a
director or
coordinator

If you are the children's director or coordinator of *KidsTime*, follow the above steps and add two more!

1. Pay special attention to "Getting and Keeping the Very Best Staff" on pages 22-23. Remember to start recruiting early—several months before *KidsTime* begins.
2. Read "Questions and Answers for a Terrific Program" on pages 24-26 for tips on how to distribute and store curriculum, eye-catching decorating ideas and more!

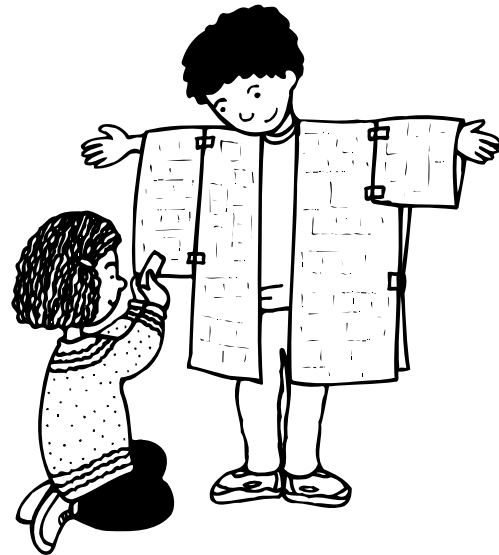


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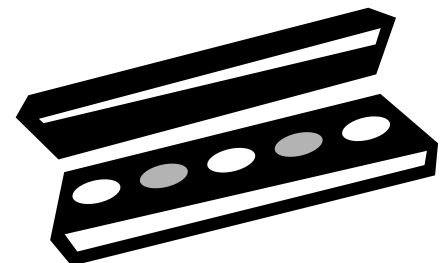
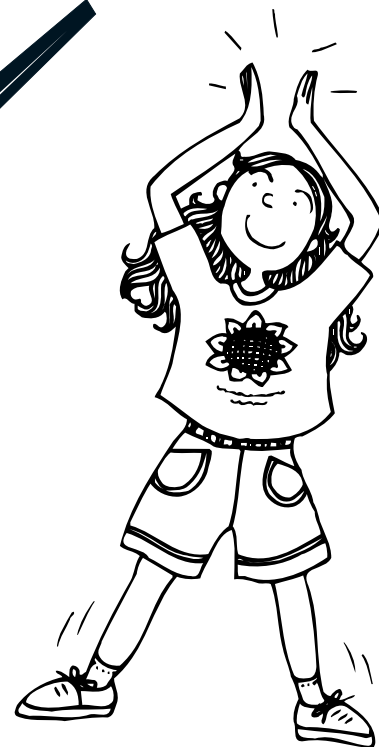
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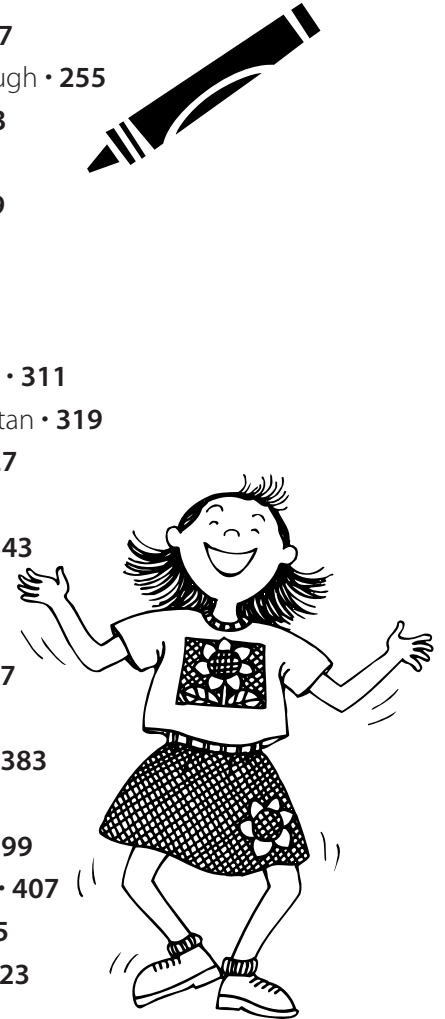
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God's Big Picture Overview

God's Big Picture takes you and your students through a majestic gallery of the major characters and themes of God's Word! Its chronological approach will give your students an understanding of the Bible as a picture of God's plan and purposes.



Because children learn in diverse ways, *God's Big Picture* is filled with variety to appeal to kids' many learning styles. Every lesson includes a terrific kid-involving way to present the Bible story and an interesting object talk. Students may also participate in several learning centers involving active games, a palette of creative art activities that will help them express what they learn and a Worship Center with several options for student involvement (including a music video). Additionally, younger children are provided with a Bible story coloring page activity while older students get thought-provoking skits and meaty activities to develop Bible skills.

Because teachers are the heart of any teaching time, *God's Big Picture* is especially easy for teachers to use. Each team member can be given his or her own page for leading any given session's activity. Every activity also emphasizes that session's Big Picture Idea, so every team member understands the goal of the lesson. In addition, every lesson opens with a commentary taken from the notes of Dr. Henrietta Mears, well-known trainer of Sunday School teachers and founder of Gospel Light Publications.

The goal of this course is to generate excitement about the wonderful way God has revealed Himself to us. When you and your team members are full of eagerness and understanding of the lesson at hand, your students will be eager to learn and inspired by every lesson! As you pray and organize this course to meet the needs of your group, ask God for a sense of expectancy of what He wants to do during this time and for sensitivity to ways you can be part of what He desires to accomplish. This may be the most fun you've ever had in church!

Advice and Answers for Schedule Planning

Begin your planning for *KidsTime* by choosing a learning format. No matter when or where *KidsTime* takes place, there are two main format options—Self-Contained Groups and the Learning Center Plan. Read the following descriptions and select the format that fits your needs.

Self-Contained Groups

If you are confined to a single room or have a small class, Self-Contained Groups may be your best option. In this format, groups of seven or eight students are formed. Each group has a teacher who leads his or her group in the activities. (If the size of the group is larger, additional teachers or helpers are needed.)

The greatest benefit of Self-Contained Groups is that teachers are able to form meaningful relationships with the students since they remain together during the entire session. The biggest disadvantage is the difficulty in recruiting teachers who feel comfortable leading a variety of activities.

Self-Contained Groups are often the best option for small churches, house or cell churches, or Christian schools.

Learning Center Plan

The Learning Center Plan offers an exciting recruiting and schedule variation for *KidsTime*. In this plan, each teacher prepares and leads only one activity. Guides (adults, teenagers or even responsible fifth and sixth graders) lead groups of students to rotate between the centers. In other words, each teacher specializes in only one part of the lesson. Specialization simplifies teacher preparation and often improves teaching effectiveness. The Learning Center Plan also prevents inexperienced teachers from feeling overwhelmed. And teachers who don't enjoy leading games or who are apprehensive about telling Bible stories can leave those tasks to others more skilled in those areas.

The Learning Center Plan is often the best option for medium or large churches.

What do students do and who leads them?

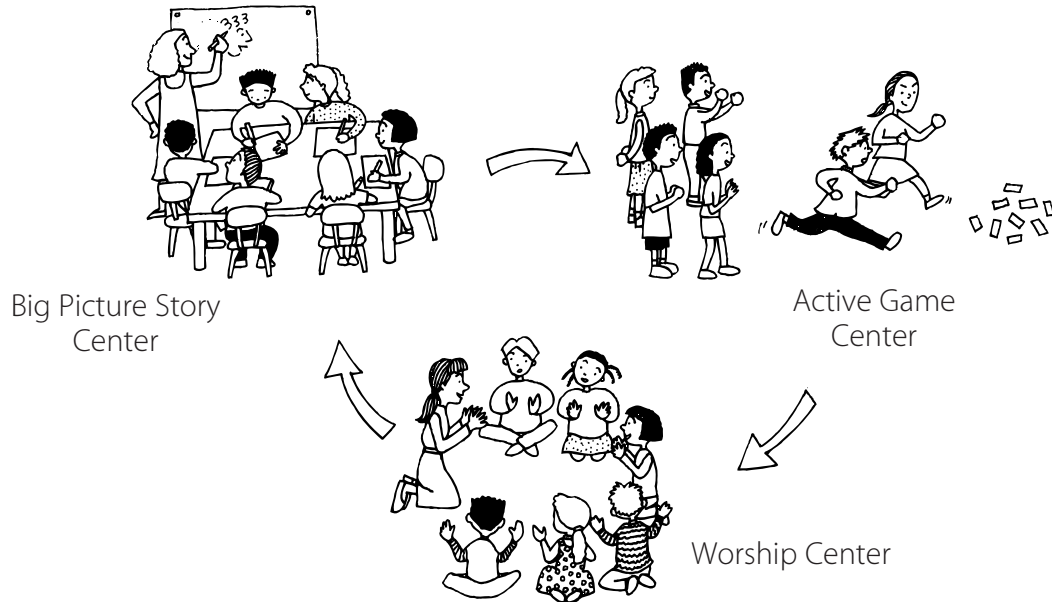
Students are placed in small permanent groups (12 to 16 is the best size). Each group has at least one guide who leads the group to various centers. Each group, along with its guide(s), visits each center during each session. Another idea is to place eight students in each small group with one guide; then two small groups participate in a center at once.

What do teachers do?

Each teacher takes responsibility for one center, remaining at the center and instructing each group as it visits the center.

What are the centers?

One room or outside area is designated for each of the *KidsTime* learning centers. Post a large sign to identify each center. Give centers interesting names: The Gallery (for the Big Picture Story Center), The Studio (for the Art Center), The Action Station (for the Active Game Center) or The Praise Place (for the Worship Center). Start with the centers suggested in the following diagram:



You may want to combine several groups together for one or more of the centers (for example, the Worship Center or the Big Picture Story Center). Other centers may be added (for example, Bible Verse Object Talk, Bible Story Coloring Center, Skit Center, Bible Skills Center).

How do I plan the time schedule?

Plan the activities in each center to last the same amount of time. The centers in *KidsTime* can be taught in any order. In a one-hour program, groups would remain in each center for 15 minutes. (Add 5 minutes to the first center each group attends to provide for a brief welcome time.) Allow 5 minutes for groups to move from center to center, following a pre-established route. With this schedule, groups would be able to participate in three centers. If you have more time for each session of the program, additional centers may be added or the time in each center may be lengthened (generally it is best to limit the time in each center to a maximum of 25 minutes in order to keep student interest high). Use this chart as an example of how to schedule groups:

Sample One-Hour Schedule

	11:00-11:20	11:25-11:40	11:45-12:00
Painters	Welcome and Big Picture Story Center	Worship Center	Active Game Center
Sculptors	Welcome and Active Game Center	Big Picture Story Center	Worship Center
Potters	Welcome and Worship Center	Active Game Center	Big Picture Story Center

How do I make the Learning Center Plan run smoothly?

- ◆ Predetermine the route each group will travel, including room and building entrances and exits. Ask guides to walk their routes in advance to become familiar with all locations.
- ◆ Establish a signal for notifying groups when it's time to move to the next center.
- ◆ Provide labeled tables or other areas where students may leave their projects and belongings during the session.
- ◆ Give each group a unique name. For example, name groups after famous painters: Picassos, Renoirs and Michaelangelos. Also consider using names such as Painters, Sculptors and Potters.
- ◆ Provide color-coded name tags to identify each group.

Schedule Options

The following schedules show the use of the Basic Plan for learning centers. You can adapt these sample schedules to the needs and interests of your church. Other centers can be added or substituted in order to meet the needs of younger or older students (see "Centers for Younger and Older Students" on p.10). In addition to the centers suggested in this course, many churches include centers such as service projects, recreational games (soccer, baseball, volleyball) and elective classes (cooking, woodworking).

When planning your *KidsTime* schedule, remember to include a variety of activities in an order that will meet the needs of children. For example, if students have been sitting in the adult worship service before coming to *KidsTime*, plan an active center at the beginning of *KidsTime*.

For help in staffing and recruiting, make a planning page to be completed on a weekly or monthly basis (see samples).

KidsTime God's Big Picture

Date(s) Sept. 1.

Lesson # and Title 1: God's Big Picture.

Teaching Team Lisa, Jon, Carole

Time	Center	Teachers	Helpers
10:45.	Big Picture Story/.	Lisa.	Jon, Carole.
	Bible Verse Object Talk.		
11:15.	Art.	Carole.	Lisa, Jon.
11:35.	Active Game.	Jon.	Lisa, Carole.
11:50	Worship	Lisa, Jon	Carole

KidsTime God's Big Picture

Date(s) Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22.

Lessons 1-4.

Teaching Team Jon, Mary, Dennis

Time	Center	Teachers
11:00-11:20.	Active Game.	Jan.
11:20-11:40.	Big Picture Story.	Dennis.
11:40-12:00	Worship	Mary

Centers for Younger and Older Students

If you have primarily younger or older students in your program, consider offering the Bible Story Coloring Center (for students as young as kindergarten), Skit Center (for older students) or Bible Skills Center (for older students). Any of these centers can either be substituted for one of the Basic Plan centers or added to the Basic Plan.

If you would like to include preschoolers in *KidsTime*, here are some suggestions to follow:

- ◆ Provide a copy of the coloring page suggested in the Bible Coloring Pages Center for the youngest students to color during the Big Picture Story Center.
- ◆ Have preschoolers participate in the Art Center and the Worship Center.
- ◆ During the Active Game Center, either lead preschoolers in simple games such as Follow the Leader and Mother, May I? or allow students to play on playground equipment or with toys and puzzles indoors.

Basic Plan
(60-90 minutes)

Big Picture Story Center and Bible Verse Object Talk
15-30 minutes

Active Game Center
15-20 minutes

Art Center
15-20 minutes

Worship Center
15-20 minutes

Sunday Morning Option 1
(60-90 minutes)

Adult Worship Service
15-20 minutes

Active Game Center
15-20 minutes

Big Picture Story Center and Bible Verse Object Talk
15-30 minutes

Art Center
15-20 minutes

Sunday Morning Option 2
(60-90 minutes)

Big Picture Story Center and Bible Verse Object Talk
15-30 minutes

Active Game Center
15-20 minutes

Children's Choir
15-20 minutes

Art Center
15-20 minutes



Weekday Options
(75-90 minutes)

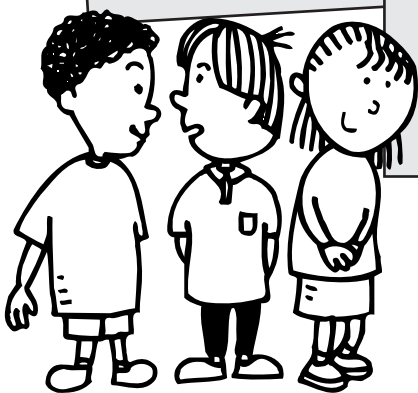
Active Game Center
15-20 minutes

Big Picture Story Center and Bible Verse Object Talk
15-20 minutes

Snack Time
15 minutes

Art Center
15-20 minutes

Worship Center
15 minutes



Leading a Child to Christ

One of the greatest privileges of serving in Sunday School is to help children become members of God's family. Some children, especially those from Christian homes, may be ready to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior earlier than others. Ask God to prepare the children in your class to receive the good news about Jesus and prepare you to communicate effectively with them.

Talk individually with children. Something as important as a child's personal relationship with Jesus Christ can be handled more effectively one-on-one than in a group. A child needs to respond individually to the call of God's love. This response needs to be a genuine response to God—not because the child wants to please peers, parents or you, the teacher.

Follow these basic steps in talking simply with children about how to become members of God's family. The evangelism booklet *God Loves You!* (available from Gospel Light) is an effective guide to follow. Show the child what God says in His Word. Ask the questions suggested to encourage thinking and comprehending.



a. God wants you to become His child. (See John 1:12.) **Do you know why God wants you in His family?** (See 1 John 4:8.)

b. You and all the people in the world have done wrong things. (See Romans 3:23.) **The Bible word for doing wrong is "sin." What do you think should happen to us when we sin?** (See Romans 6:23.)

c. God loves you so much He sent His Son to die on the cross for your sins. Because Jesus never sinned, He is the only One who can take the punishment for your sins. (See 1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 John 4:14.) **The Bible tells us that God raised Jesus from the dead and that He is alive forever.**

d. Are you sorry for your sin? Do you believe Jesus died to be your Savior? If you do believe and you are sorry for your sin, God forgives all your sin. (See 1 John 1:9.)

When you talk to God, tell Him that you believe He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to take your punishment. Also tell God you are sorry for your sin. Tell Him that He is a great and wonderful God. It is easy to talk to God. He is ready to listen. What you are going to tell Him is something He has been waiting to hear.

e. The Bible says that when you believe in Jesus, God's Son, you receive God's gift of eternal life. This gift makes you a child of God. This means God is with you now and forever. (See John 3:16.)

Give your pastor the names of those who make decisions to become members of God's family. Encourage the child to tell his or her family about the decision. Children who make decisions need follow-up to help them grow in Christ.

NOTE: The Bible uses many terms and images to express the concept of salvation. Children often do not understand or may develop misconceptions about these terms, especially terms that are highly symbolic. (Remember the trouble Nicodemus, a respected teacher, had in trying to understand the meaning of being "born again"?) Many people talk with children about "asking Jesus into your heart." The literal-minded child is likely to develop strange ideas from the imagery of those words. The idea of being a child of God (see John 1:12) is perhaps the simplest portrayal the New Testament provides.

Safe in the Ark

Big Picture Verse

"If you love me, you will obey what I command."

John 14:15



Scripture Background

Genesis 6:9—9:19

The account of the flood in the Bible is very plain and straightforward. The story is not only told because it is startling or interesting but also because it is an incident in the history of redemption.

After the fall God gave the world a new beginning, but soon wickedness increased until there remained but one righteous man, Noah. Adam and Eve had yielded to an outward temptation, but now people had yielded to temptation which was within. "The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time" (Genesis 6:5). Evil threatened to destroy everything that was good. God had been long-suffering in His patience with people. Noah had warned his peers for 120 years while he was building the ark, but God's mercies were refused and so the wicked people had to perish. God was going to separate the righteous from the wicked. He was taking the first step toward a chosen nation.

Who was Noah? He was not a sailor or a carpenter but a farmer, a man of the soil (see Genesis 9:20). God did not choose him for his boat-building skills! But in the New Testament Peter tells us this farmer was also a preacher of righteousness (see 2 Peter 2:5). And Genesis 6:9 says that he was blameless and that he walked with God. God used Noah for this very reason: he was obedient. Noah never tried to second-guess God's instructions; he simply did everything just as God commanded as a reflection of his love and faith in the Lord of life.

Adapted from *What the Bible Is All About* by Henrietta C. Mears.

Big Picture Story Center

Teacher Materials

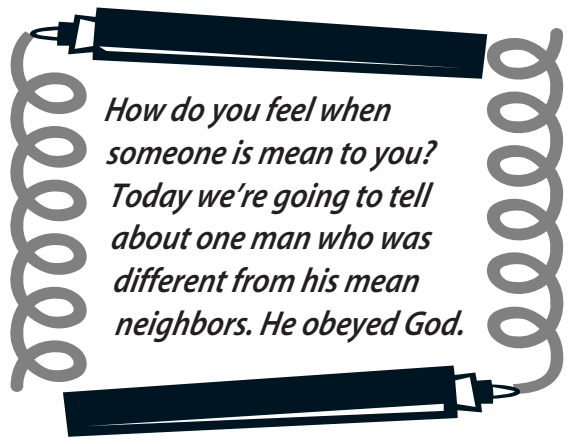
Bible Time Line, drawing materials/equipment.

Student Materials

Drawing materials.

Tell the Story

Move the *Bible Time Line* frame to highlight Picture 4. As you tell each part of the story, draw each sketch. Students copy your sketches.



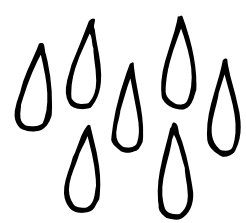
1. After God made the world, more and more people were born. Now there were more people than anyone could count! But people had forgotten that God had made them. They had forgotten all about obeying Him. Instead, they were disobeying God—lying, hurting and even killing each other! They didn't care what God wanted. That made God very sad.

1. Use "V"s and "C"s to draw mean faces.



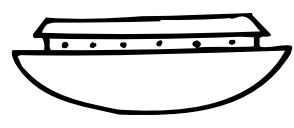
2. But in all that meanness and disobeying, one person DID love and obey God. His name was Noah. When God decided to put a stop to the terrible things going on in the world, He decided to do it with a flood. God told Noah, "I'm going to send a lot of rain. It will rain until the whole earth is covered with water. But I want you to build a big boat, an ark. You, your family and all the creatures I have made will be safe there."

2. Draw as many raindrops as you can.



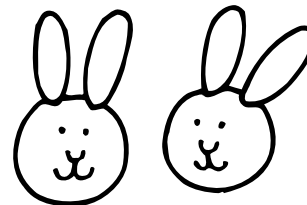
3. God told Noah EXACTLY how to build the ark, what kind of wood to use and how big to make it. It was going to be BIG—as long as one and a half football fields! Noah obeyed. He chopped down trees; he sawed and nailed. It was a BIG JOB! Noah and his family worked many, many YEARS to build the ark. After it was built, Noah painted it inside and out with tar to keep it from leaking.

3. Ark from sideways "D." Add roof.



4. One day God said, "Noah, take your family into the ark. And take EVERY kind of animal and bird with you—two of some and seven of others." Again, Noah obeyed! He loaded food for his family and for ALL those animals into the ark. Then God sent animals to Noah. Animals of every kind and size came to the ark! Rabbits and hippos, lions and mice, sparrows and eagles—all these and more found places in the ark. Finally Noah and his family got inside the huge boat, too. As Noah and his family got settled, they began to hear something—plink, plink, plink! Rain was coming down, faster and harder! Then God shut the door of the ark.

4. Draw two rabbits from long and round "O"s.



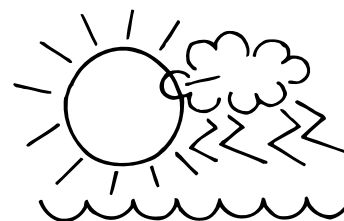
5. The rain fell harder. Little puddles got larger. Soon, the ground was covered with water! The ark began to FLOAT! For 40 days and 40 nights the rain fell hard and fast. OUTSIDE, the water got DEEPER and DEEPER until even the tallest mountain on earth was COVERED. But inside the ark, Noah and his family and all the animals were snug and dry.

5. "U"s for water. Add rain clouds from "3"s, "Z"s for lightning.



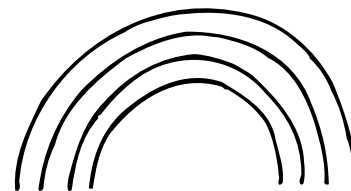
6. One day, it got very quiet. The rain had stopped! But it was a LONG time before the water dried up—almost a YEAR. Then one day God told Noah to bring his family and all those animals and birds out of the ark! What an exciting day THAT must have been! At last, Noah and his family and ALL those creatures could run and stretch their legs and leap in the sunshine!

6. Add sun in front of clouds.



7. The first thing Noah did was thank God for keeping him and his family safe. God was glad that Noah remembered to thank Him. God promised, "I will NEVER again destroy the whole earth with a flood." Then to remind everyone of His promise, God put a beautiful rainbow in the sky. Even today, whenever we see a rainbow, we remember that God promised NEVER again to cover the whole earth with water.

7. Draw "C"s for rainbow (7 "C"s for full rainbow). Add colors.



Get the Big Picture

Who showed love for God by obeying Him? (Noah.) **What are some ways Noah obeyed God?** (Built ark. Took care of animals. Thanked God.) **What did God do to show His promise?** (Made a rainbow.)

We may find it hard to obey God. But He will help us obey Him if we ask Him. He loves us and wants us to show we love Him by obeying Him!

Bible Verse Object Talk: Rainbow Fun

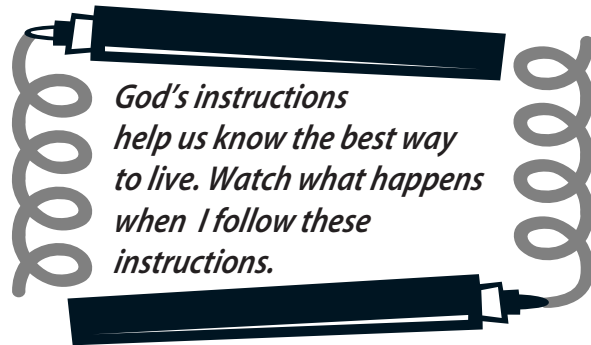
Big Picture Verse

"If you love me, you will obey what I command."

John 14:15

Teacher Materials

Bible with bookmark at John 14:15, six clear glasses, measuring cup, light corn syrup, glycerin, water, cooking oil, rubbing alcohol, blue, green, yellow and red food coloring, four spoons.



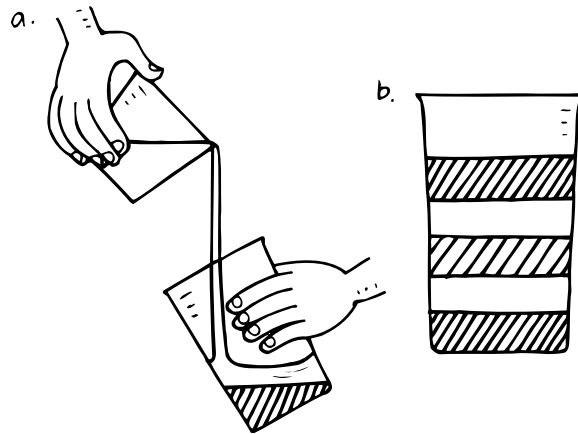
Present the Object Talk

Read directions aloud as you complete each step.

1. Set out the glasses and pour 1/2 cup of each liquid into separate glasses in the following order: light corn syrup, glycerin, water, cooking oil, rubbing alcohol.

2. Using separate spoons, stir several drops of food coloring into the liquids: red into light corn syrup, yellow into glycerine, green into water, none into cooking oil, blue into alcohol.

3. Pour about 1 inch (2.5 cm) of each liquid into the remaining glass as follows: (a) pour red into the center of the glass without letting liquid hit the side; (b) tilt the glass and pour yellow into point where red meets the side of the glass (see sketch a); (c) pour green liquid down the side of the tilted glass, then clear, then blue. Each liquid should float on the top of the previous liquid. Hold the glass upright to see rainbow (see sketch b).



Conclude

Following these directions helped me make a rainbow. Following God's directions or commands is even better! They help us know the best way to live. Read John 14:15 aloud. **Because I love God, I want to obey Him.** Ask God's help in obeying.

Discussion Questions

1. *What would have happened if I hadn't followed the directions?*
2. *Being honest is a command God wants us to obey. What are some of the results of being honest?* (Parents and friends trust you and like to be with you. Teachers know they can depend on you.)
3. *What are some ways you can show love for God and obey His commands?* (Be honest. Care about the needs of others.)

Active Game Center: Two-by-Two Relay

Materials

Index cards, marker.

Lead the Game

1. **What kinds of animals came on the ark with Noah?** Write each animal students suggest on a separate index card. (You may also prepare cards ahead of time.) Mix order of cards and place in a stack.

2. **Many of the animals who came onto the ark came in pairs.** Students line up in pairs.

(If you have an uneven number of students, form one or more trios.) Each pair of students takes a card and quickly decides an action to imitate the animal on their card (arms down in front of face like the trunk of an elephant, hopping for a rabbit or frog, etc.). At your



Noah showed his love for God by obeying Him and building the ark. The animals even obeyed by getting on board! Let's play a game about the animals getting on board the ark.

signal, each pair links arms and moves across the playing area in the manner chosen. When they get to the other side of the playing area, pair stands up and makes the noise of their animal and then returns to line in the same manner.

3. If you have time, shuffle the cards and play again so that each student gets a chance to imitate more than one kind of animal. Students change partners for each round of the game.

Discussion Questions

1. *What animal would you most like to be? Why?*

2. *What animal did you have the most fun acting like?*

3. *Noah obeyed God by building an ark. What are some ways a kid your age can obey God?* (Help people in need. Speak kind words to stop an argument.)

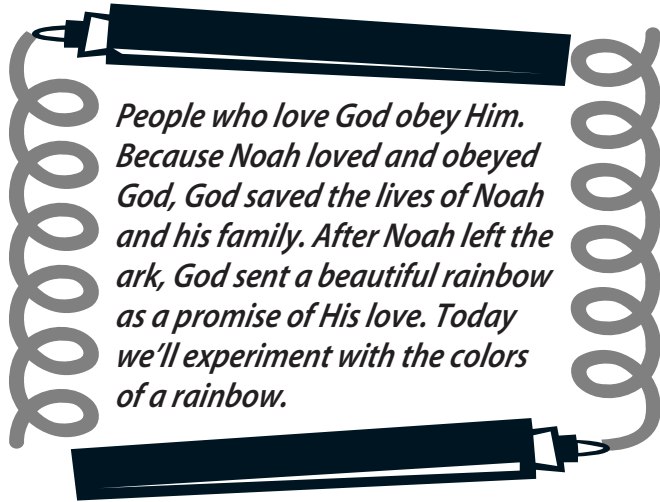
Art Center: Rainbow Art

Student Materials

Four small containers, water, measuring cup, four colors of food coloring, one or more white paper napkins or white coffee filters for each student, newspaper.

Prepare the Activity

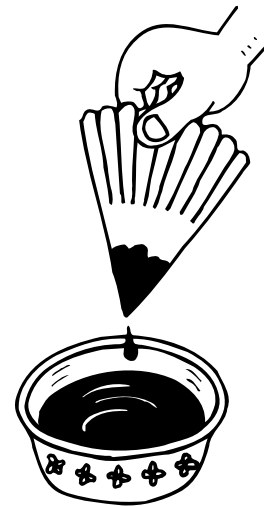
Put one-half cup of water into each container. Put drops of food coloring into each container until colors are dark. Cover tables with newspaper.



People who love God obey Him. Because Noah loved and obeyed God, God saved the lives of Noah and his family. After Noah left the ark, God sent a beautiful rainbow as a promise of His love. Today we'll experiment with the colors of a rainbow.

Lead the Activity

1. Students fold napkins or coffee filters in half and then in half again.
2. Each student takes a turn to dip a corner or section of napkin or coffee filter into a container of food coloring, holding napkin or filter in container for several seconds (see sketch). (Note: If students hold napkins or filters in food coloring too long, the paper will become too saturated.) Students repeat process several more times, allowing the colors to mix.
3. Students carefully open the napkins or filters and set on newspaper to dry. Suggest students take home their rainbow art creations and hang them in windows.



Options

1. Instead of dipping napkins or filters into food coloring, students use eyedroppers to drop color onto unfolded napkins or filters.
2. Plain white paper towels may be used instead of napkins or filters.
3. Display rainbow art creations in classroom.

Discussion Questions

1. *What animals walk on two feet? on four feet? on no feet?*
2. *Which animals have hooves? toes? tails? no tails?*
3. *How much bigger do you think an elephant's footprint is than a mouse's?*
4. *What do you think might happen if an elephant and a mouse had to stay in the same stall?*

Worship Center

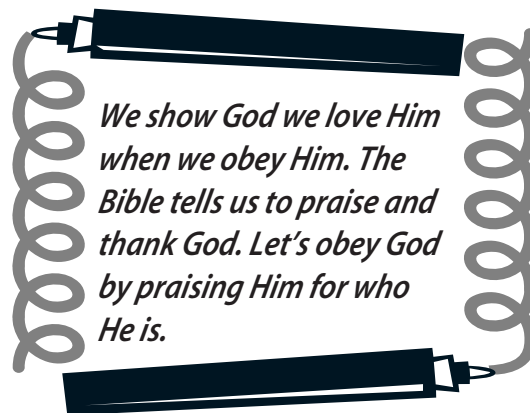
Big Picture Verse

"If you love me, you will obey what I command."

John 14:15

Teacher Materials

Bible, *God's Big Picture* cassette/CD or music video and player, "Promises" word chart (p. 475 in this book), large sheet of paper on which you have printed John 14:15, masking tape.



Sing to God

Play "Promises," encouraging students to sing along with the music and do the actions shown on the word chart or music video. **How can knowing God keeps His promises help us obey Him?** (He promises to always be with us and help us.)

Hear and Say God's Word

Display paper on which you have printed John 14:15. Have volunteer read verse aloud.

What are some ways we can obey God to show we love Him? (Tell the truth. Be patient when waiting a turn.) Students stand or sit in a circle. Students repeat words of John 14:15 in clockwise order around the circle. When you clap hands, students repeat words in counterclockwise order. Continue, with students reversing the order in which they are repeating the verse each time you clap hands.

Pray to God

What are some times when it is hard to obey God? Pray, telling God we love Him and asking for His help to obey Him in the times students named.

Options

1. Before singing "Promises," group students according to the dominant color of clothing that each one is wearing. Then guide groups to stand in an order and shape similar to a rainbow while they sing the song.
2. Invite an older student to lead the prayer.
3. Record students' prayer requests and items for which they wish to thank God in a prayer journal to which you can refer each week.

Bible Story Coloring Center

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Materials

Crayons or markers, a copy of “Noah builds an ark” picture and story (pp. 13-14 from from *Bible Story Coloring Pages*) for each student.

Lead the Activity

Students color page 13; read or tell the story on page 14. **Why were Noah and his family thankful? After thanking God for saving them, what do you think Noah and his family did?**



Option

Copy pages 17 and 18 for each student. Cut 1/2-inch (1.25-cm) red, yellow, orange, green, blue and purple paper squares. Students glue squares on rainbow on page 17. Read aloud the story on page 18.

Skit Center

FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Materials

A copy of “Show Me” skit (pp. 19-22 from *The Big Book of Bible Skits*) for each student; optional—highlighter pens.

Lead the Activity

Four volunteers read Scene One of the skit, which tells the story of Noah’s faith in God and his willingness to obey God. (Optional: Students highlight their parts. If time permits, students may also read Scene Two.) Ask the discussion questions on page 19.

Bible Skills Center

FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Materials

Materials needed for “Bible Book Mix-Up” and/or “Around the Verse” (p. 37 and/or p. 63 from *The Big Book of Bible Skills*).

Lead the Activity

Students complete activities as directed in *The Big Book of Bible Skills*.