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WELCOME TO DISCIPLESHIP JR.!


Discipleship Jr. is a Bible-based, in-depth program that harnesses the power of *FUN* to build young disciples through interaction with Bible truth and with each other.

A complete, multiage children's ministry program, *Discipleship Jr.* is packed full of interactive stories and drama, Scripture memory, and themed snacks and activities that will engage every child! It's guaranteed effective because its principles and methods of instruction are *teacher-tested* and *kid-approved!*

Intensive student-teacher interaction within a learning community that's relational and supportive makes *Discipleship Jr.* an ideal program for including children with disabilities. Hands-on learning activities are easily adapted to include all students. For more ideas about inclusion, an excellent resource is *Let All the Children Come to Me* by MaLesia Breeding, EdD, Dana Hood, PhD, and Jerry Whitworth, EdD, (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2006).

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER



Get Set. We know you're busy, so we provide a list of materials and what you'll need to prepare for your lesson. You'll also need a photocopier and some basic classroom supplies: whiteboard, dry erase markers and erasers, paper, pencils, markers, butcher paper, scissors, glue, and index cards. When you see this icon  allow a little extra prep time.

Kids love to dress up! Many of our Bible lessons use costume props from the "Bible time dress-up box." This can be as simple as a box of items you gather from around the house or purchase inexpensively from a secondhand store. It should include: old sheet with neck hole (angel), fake beards, swords, headcloths and browbands, bathrobes, fancy "princess" dress, crown, decorative chains and belts for temple priests, shepherd's crook or stick, wolf ears, wigs.



Password, Please! (10 minutes)—Each week begins with an activity option to involve children as everyone is filtering into the class.

- The *Welcome Time Activity* will excite children's interest and help them connect with the Bible Truth for the week.



Climb In! (20 minutes)—Whole-group, interactive Bible lessons invite students ages 6–9 to participate in the entire lesson. Whether it's role-playing a hailstorm or squeezing through an obstacle course, kids will be engaged in exciting, hands-on lessons.

- Pre- and post-lesson discussion times encourage children to talk about their own life experiences and tie their knowledge to the week's Bible Truth.



Use the Clues!—Practice is an important part of learning, and it helps us move information from short-term to long-term memory. Every week one significant object from the lesson is added to the *Use the Clues!* bag. In the weeks that follow, students are repeatedly challenged to remember the Bible Truth connected with each object. These "memory hooks" help Bible Truths stick with kids for a long time to come.



Hide 'n' Seek Bible Memory (5 minutes)—Toe tappin' and finger snappin' ... there's nothing like the power of *FUN* to motivate children. Movement, rhythm, and role-play make it easy for kids to hide God's Word in their hearts (Psalm 119:11).



Prayer Hideaway (15 minutes)—Small-group prayer time for children. Wow! What an idea! Children break into small groups of three to five with an adult helper—we call them Lookouts. Using reproducible instruction cards (found at the end of each lesson), adults guide children to explore and practice new prayer skills. Together they'll share concerns, praise God, and practice the four activities of prayer: praise, ask, confess, and thank.



(Optional) Treetop Treats and Activities (10 minutes)—You have options for snacks and activities tied to the theme of the lesson in which lesson truths are practiced and shared. Look for the activity-level icon, which shows the level of mess, energy, or noise required for the activity!

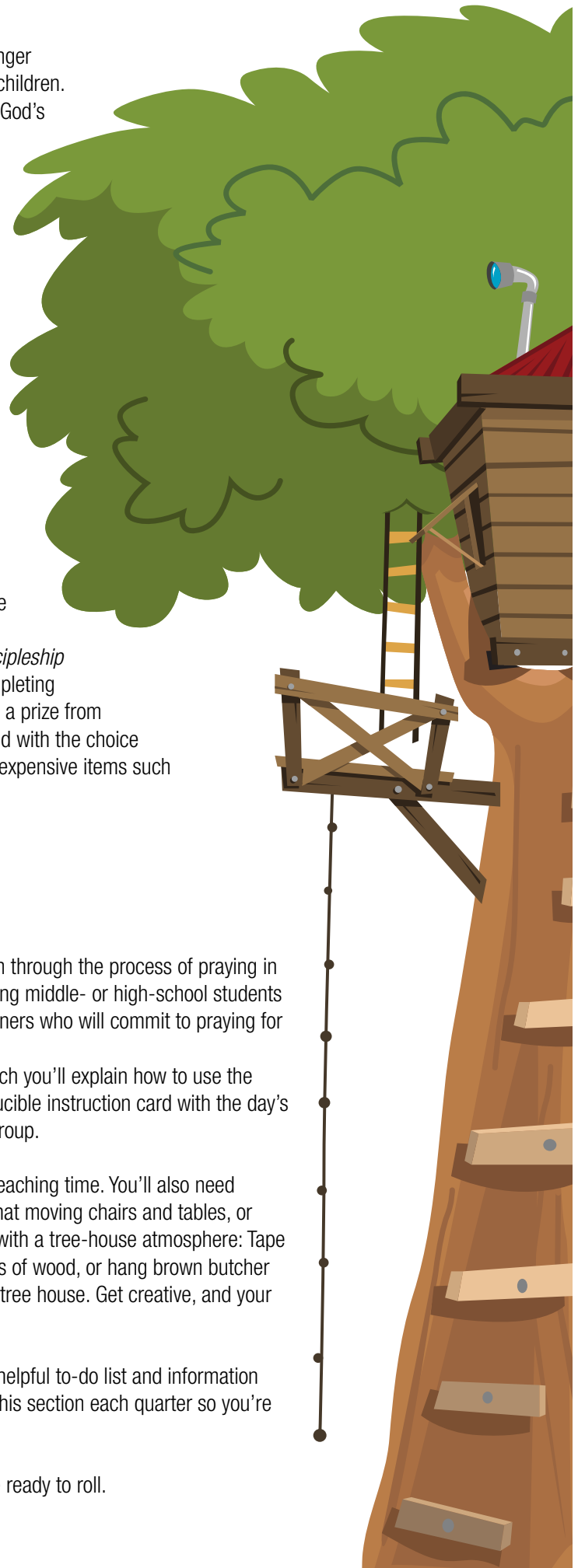


Zipline—Reproducible home-connection pages invite families to interact in and through fun activities and Bible memory. These pages can be found at the end of their corresponding lessons.

Are you looking for an additional way to motivate young learners? *Discipleship Jr.* includes an optional incentive program that rewards students for completing home-connection pages. Children return a signed *Club Pass* and choose a prize from the treasure box. If you have a new student, you might welcome that child with the choice of a treasure too! Simply cover and decorate a large shoebox. Fill with inexpensive items such as you might find at a party store.

HOW TO GET STARTED

- 1. Begin by recruiting Lookouts**—adult helpers who will guide children through the process of praying in small groups. Don't have enough adult volunteers? How about recruiting middle- or high-school students to shepherd a group? Also consider enlisting a few faithful prayer partners who will commit to praying for your class weekly.
Plan to have a brief training session with your new volunteers in which you'll explain how to use the imPACT model of prayer. Each week you'll give the Lookouts a reproducible instruction card with the day's prayer theme and prayer suggestions to use with children in a small group.
- 2. Set up your room.** You'll need a big area for your large-group Bible teaching time. You'll also need to identify spaces for each of your small prayer-groups. Don't forget that moving chairs and tables, or moving groups to a hallway is always an option. Make your room fun with a tree-house atmosphere: Tape homemade or store-bought leaves to the walls, add boards and planks of wood, or hang brown butcher paper and use black paint to create the look of the wooden walls of a tree house. Get creative, and your kids will love entering their very own "treetop" clubhouse every week!
- 3. Read This Quarter in Discipleship Jr. ...** (page 6). This page has a helpful to-do list and information specific to the current quarter of *Discipleship Jr.* Don't forget to read this section each quarter so you're prepared when kids arrive in your classroom.
- 4. Gather and prepare your materials,** set out your snacks, and you're ready to roll.



Bible Basis:

Genesis 17:15–22;
22:1–14

Bible Truth:

Jehovah Jireh: God is our provider.



God Is Our Provider

You Will Need:

- “Jehovah Jireh” poster
- Use the Clues!* bag
- toy ram or picture of a ram
- 1 poster board
- Bible time dress-up box
- construction-type toy blocks (if none are available, chenille stems)
- self-stick notes
- pen or marker
- 6 large sheets of construction paper
- ZipLine #1* home-connection page
- Lookout Card #1*
- (optional) treasure box
- (optional) snack: raisins, pretzel sticks
- (optional) Activity #1: building blocks or similar materials



When you see this icon, it means preparation will take more than five minutes.

Memory Verse: **And my God will meet all your needs** according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus (**Philippians 4:19**).

Note: Early elementary verse in **bold type**.



GET SET!

(Lesson Preparation)

- Print today’s Bible memory verse on a poster board: **And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19)**. Hang the poster board at the front of the classroom.
- Hang the “Jehovah Jireh” poster on the wall.
- Print “Jehovah Jireh: God is our provider” on an index card and tape it to the toy ram.
- Create labels for yourself from self-stick notes, one for each “name” that applies to you (your first name, mom, teacher, etc.).
- Write each of the following phrases on six large sheets of construction paper: “Abraham was old!” “God gave him a son.” “God knows what’s best.” “Abraham obeyed God.” “Isaac lived.” “The Lord will provide.”
- Make a copy of *ZipLine #1* for each child.
- Make a copy of *Lookout Card #1* for each helper.
- Set out the *Use the Clues!* bag, toy ram, and (optional) treasure box.
- Set up snack or outside play activities if you include these items in your children’s ministry.



PASSWORD, PLEASE!

(Welcome and Bible Connection)

- **Objective:** To excite children’s interest and connect their life experiences with the Bible Truth, children will construct things God has provided for them and talk about his provision.



Welcome Time Activity: Provision Construction

- **Materials:** construction-type toy blocks or chenille stems

As children arrive, send them to where you've placed the building toys or chenille stems and invite them to create things that God has provided for them (houses, vehicles, playground, etc.). Encourage them to explain their creations to other children and to your adult or teen helpers (Lookouts) as they work.

Sharing Time and Bible Connection

- **Materials:** self-stick notes, pen or marker

When everyone has arrived, call children to the lesson area and welcome them. As you move into the activity and discussion to prepare for the Bible story, give every child the opportunity to say something.

Attach the self-stick notes on your body where the children can see them. Ask different children who are good readers to come up and read aloud one note each. **Those are some of my names. Each one describes something different about me, even though I'm just one person.** Ask two volunteers to come up; let others suggest names that you write and stick on the two volunteers. After you've attached several to each child, thank them and let them sit down.

Introduce today's lesson by discussing these questions:

- **Who can tell me what your name means?**
- **Does anyone know why your parents chose the name they gave you?**
- **Did you know that God has lots of names? What names of God can you think of?** (Provider, Prince of Peace, Father, Healer, Good Shepherd)

After discussion time, help your students connect their discussion to the Bible story they're about to hear from Genesis 17 and 22:

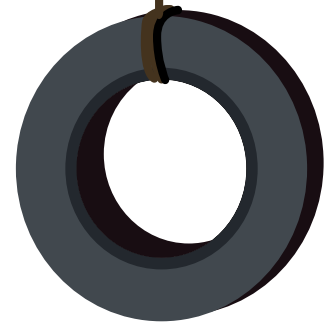
Parents often give their children names that tell something about them or what they hope their children will become. God has lots of names. Every one of them gives us another clue about who he is and what he can do. Point to the Jehovah Jireh poster on the wall. One of his names is *Jehovah Jireh*. Say that with me. Say it slowly and clearly: Jehovah Jireh: God is our provider. Right from the beginning of the earth God provided what his people needed. Today we're going to find out how God did that for a man and his son.

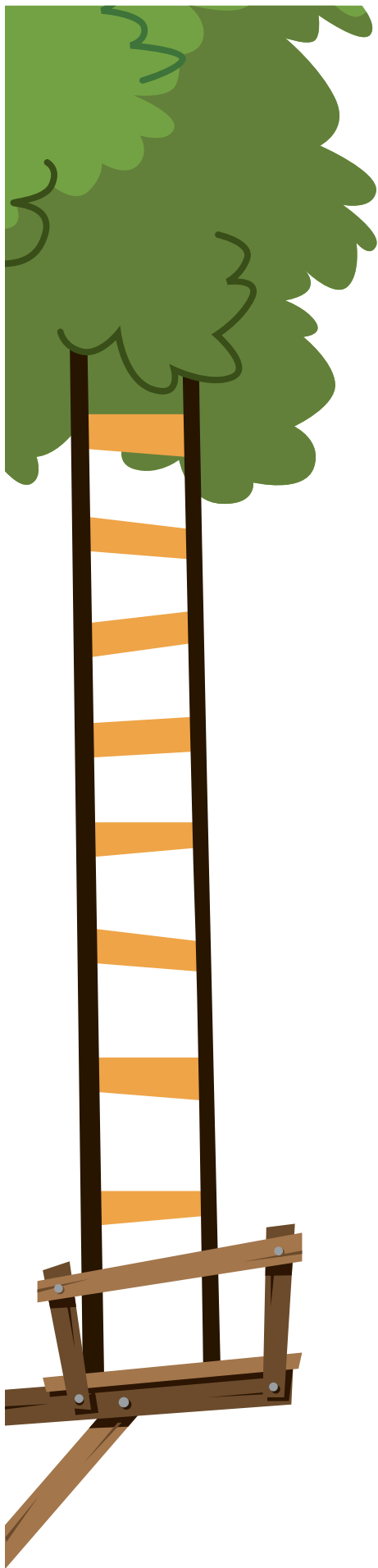


CLIMB IN! (Bible Discover and Learn Time)

Genesis 17 & 22

- **Objective:** Children will study Genesis 17 and 22 and hear that God provided a ram for Abraham's sacrifice.
- **Materials:** Bible time dress-up box, 6 large sheets of paper with phrases printed on them





I'm going to need six of you to help me tell the story from Genesis 17 and 22. Give each volunteer one of the sheets of paper. When you hear the words from your paper during the story, come up and hold your poster for everyone to see. You'll need to listen carefully.

Dress up like Abraham with a robe, towel wrapped around your head, cloth sash, and beard.

Hi! I'm Abraham, and I'm over 100 years old! When I was 100, God did an amazing thing. The first thing I want you to remember about my story is that I was very old. Say, "Abraham was old!" Wait for the child holding this sheet to come forward, then have children repeat, "Abraham was old!" (Have child remain in front.)

This might be hard to believe, but I didn't have any children when I was a young man. But when I was 100 years old God gave my wife, Sarah, our son! We were so excited! We named him Isaac. It means "laughter" because my wife laughed when God told her she would have a son. God promised that the whole world would be blessed through Isaac's children.

That's another thing for you to remember about me. Say, "God gave him a son." Wait for the child holding this sheet to come forward, then have children repeat, "God gave him a son." Now say them both together. Children should read from the two posters: "Abraham was old! God gave him a son."

Our little Isaac grew from a baby to a toddler to a boy. We sure loved him. One day God called to me, "Abraham!" Wow! God was talking to ME. I answered, "Here I am."

God said, "Take your son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering." This was a hard thing to do, but I believed God knew what was best. Say, "God knows what's best." Wait for the child holding this sheet to come forward, then have children repeat, "God knows what's best." Then recite all three statements: "Abraham was old! God gave him a son. God knows what's best." (Have all three children remain in front.)

Do you know what a sacrifice is? Let children respond. In my time, we would build an altar with stones, put the wood on top, and then lay a recently killed animal on the wood. We'd set the wood on fire. The wood and the meat would burn up. We did this to honor God.

I loved Isaac so much. How could I sacrifice him? I didn't know, but I trusted God. I knew I needed to obey him. So you need to remember this: "Abraham obeyed God." Wait for the child holding this sheet to come forward, then have children repeat the statement. Then say all four: "Abraham was old! God gave him a son. God knows what's best. Abraham obeyed God."

God had promised me the whole world would be blessed through Isaac's children. Somehow God would keep his promise, even if I didn't understand how. I just believed him.

I was very, very sad as I built the altar for the sacrifice. I slowly put the wood on it. Then I put my only son, Isaac, on the wood. I was still trusting God. Just as I was ready to sacrifice Isaac, an angel of the Lord called to me. "Abraham, Abraham." "Here I am," I said. "Don't harm the boy. Now I know you love God," he said. Whew, was I glad to hear that!

So now you can remember that Isaac lived! Let's say that together. Wait for the child holding this sheet to come forward, then have children repeat it. Then read all the posters so far.

But how would I make the sacrifice now? As I wondered that, I looked up and saw a ram, a male sheep, caught by his horns in some bushes. There was my sacrifice! God had sent it! I called this place on the mountain, "The Lord will provide." That's your last thing to remember. Wait for the final volunteer to come up then repeat, "The Lord will provide."

So now you know how God provided for me. Let's say the story together. Read posters in order, then have all six volunteers return to their seats.

Isn't God incredible? If he says he will provide, he will!



USE THE CLUES!

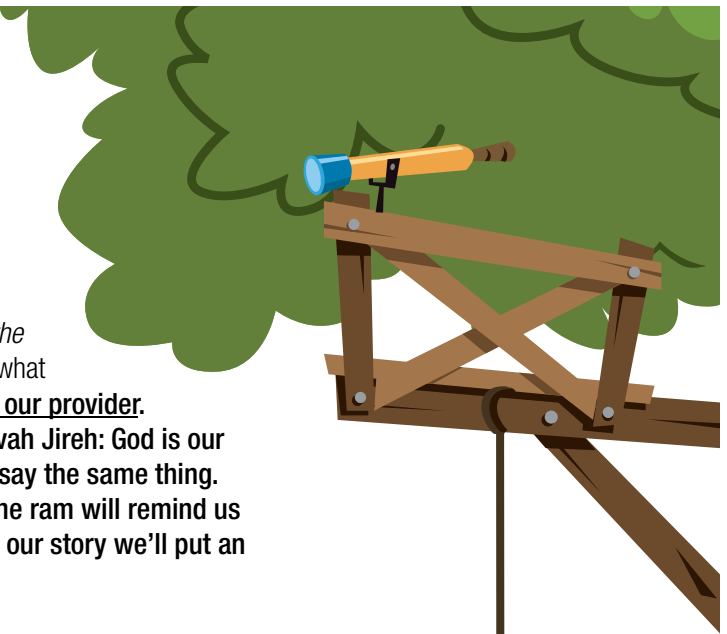
(Bible Review)

Okay, let's see what you remember.

- What was amazing about Abraham's son? (Isaac was born when Abraham and Sarah were old)
- What hard thing did God ask Abraham to do? (sacrifice his only son)
- What did Abraham do when God asked him to do that? (obeyed God, built an altar, prepared Isaac as the sacrifice)

- **How did God provide for Abraham?** (God put a ram in the bushes for the sacrifice)
- **How has God provided for you when you've had a need?** Let children respond.

God's name Jehovah Jireh means "God will provide." God gives us exactly what we need, at the exactly right time. We don't always see it or understand it, like Abraham. But once God provided the ram for the sacrifice, Abraham saw how perfectly God provided for him. God is the same today, and he provides for you and me. Take the ram out of the *Use the Clues!* bag. **How does this animal remind us of today's story?** (The ram is what God provided for Abraham's sacrifice.) **This card says Jehovah Jireh: God is our provider. I'm going to toss the ram to someone. When you catch it, you say, "Jehovah Jireh: God is our provider." Then you should toss it to someone else who will catch it and say the same thing.** Once everyone has said the words, put the ram in the *Use the Clues!* bag. **The ram will remind us how God provided for Abraham. He provides for us too. Every week after our story we'll put an object in the bag to remind us what we learned that week.**



HIDE 'N' SEEK (Scripture Memory)

Philippians 4:19

- **Objective:** Children will hide God's Word in their hearts for guidance, protection, and encouragement.

Read this week's memory verse from the poster. Point to each word as you read it: **And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).**

To help children memorize the verse, play "Follow the Leader." Say the verse one phrase at a time and have the children repeat after you. Do this a few times until the verse is familiar. Then take down the poster and let volunteers take turns "leading" the other children in a different way to say the verse. They might instruct the group to say it with both hands on their head, while standing on one foot, or by whispering it. Emphasize that the leaders need to make good choices as they lead.



PRAYER HIDEAWAY

- **Objective:** Children will explore and practice prayer for themselves in small groups.
- **Materials:** copies of Lookout Card #1 for each adult or teen helper

Break into small groups of three to five children. Assign a teen or adult helper to each small group and give each helper a copy of *Lookout Card #1* (page 16) with ideas for group discussion and prayer.

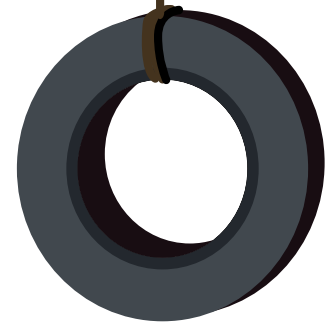


TREETOP TREATS: Abraham's Altar (Optional Snack)

- **Materials:** raisins, pretzel sticks

Children can construct small altars with raisins as the stones, then lay broken pretzel sticks on top as wood. They can retell the story or talk about how Abraham and Isaac felt before and after God provided the ram.

Note: Always be aware of children with food allergies and have another option on hand if necessary.





APPLICATION

- **Objective:** Children will have opportunities to show how the lesson works in their lives through activities and home-connection pages.

Some children's ministries may allow children to play outside at this point. If yours does not, choose one of the following activities



Build-an-Altar

- **Materials:** building blocks or similar materials

Divide children into teams and give them building materials. Each team will build the best altar they can with their blocks or other materials. Review parts of the lesson by asking questions about the story after the teams are finished.



The Wave

Have the children review the story using the six short sentence statements they repeated during the Bible story. (You may choose to hang up the posters or have the children recite them from memory.) Everyone sits in a circle. Choose one child to go first. He or she stands, says the first statement, then sits down. The next child quickly stands, says the next statement, and sits. See how quickly the children can stand, speak, and sit, creating a wave as the activity moves around the circle.



ZIPLINE

(Home-Connection Page)

Introduce the treasure box by asking: **Who would like to choose a prize from the treasure box?** Anticipate excited responses. **What? No one?** Anticipate *loud* responses! Show the *ZipLine* home-connection pages. **Today I'm going to give each of you a *ZipLine* page to take home. You'll find activities and a Bible verse about Jehovah Jireh, our God who provides. To earn a prize, complete all the activities at home and learn your verse. Then ask your parents or another adult to sign the *Club Pass* at the bottom of the page, and bring it back next week. If you do, you'll get to choose a prize from the treasure box!**

Distribute the home-connection pages just before children leave.

ZIPLINE – HOME CONNECTION #1

Jehovah Jireh: God Is Our Provider



Prayer Challenge

Ask your parents or someone in your family to pray with you this week. Together thank God for as many things as you can think of that he has provided for you. Besides the obvious things, think about the smaller things, the people and pleasures for which you often forget to thank God.



Memory Verse

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus (**Philippians 4:19**).

Note: Early elementary verse in bold type.

Cross-Out Word Puzzle

Use dark pencil or pen to block out all the X's. Then write the leftover letters on the lines below.

1. XAXBXXRAXHXXXAXMXWXXASXOLXDXXXX

2. XGXXOXXDXGXAXXVXXEXXXHXXIMAXSOXNX

3. XGXXOXDXKXNXXXXXOXWSXXBEXSTXX

4. XXAXXBXRAXXHAXMXOBEXXYEXDXGOXXDX

5. XXXIXSXXAXXAXXCXXXLXIXXVXEDXX

6. XTXXEXLXXOXXDXPRXXXXOXVIXXDEXXDX

Think and Do

Use the six sentences from the Cross-Out Word Puzzle to tell someone at home or school the story of Abraham and how God provided for him. Try to remember all the details you can. Write the name of the person you told on the line of the *Club Pass* below.

Dear Parents and Guardians,
Please check off the items your child completed this week.

- Prayer Challenge
- Bible verse memorized and recited to an adult
- Cross-Out Word Puzzle
- Think and Do

Adult Signature: _____

CLUB PASS

Answers:
1. Abraham was old. 2. God gave him a son. 3. God knew best.
4. Abraham obeyed God. 5. Isaac lived. 6. The Lord provided.

LOOKOUT CARD #1

This week your group learned that one of God's names is *Jehovah Jireh*. It means "God is our provider." The story is from Genesis 17 and 22, describing how Abraham trusted God with the most important person in his life, his son Isaac. Lead your group in prayer in the following ways:

- **Praise.** The Bible story showed how caring God was to provide for Isaac and Abraham. Each of us can praise God for being a caring God.
- **Ask.** Have students think about something that's needed in their lives. **Ask God to take care of that need, and trust that he can provide for you.**
- **Confess.** Think about a time when you didn't think God would do something, so you did it

instead. You can ask God now to forgive you for not asking him for help.

- **Thank.** Have students think about how God has provided for them—a place to live, food, water, parents, eyesight, etc. Give them a brief example of how he has provided for you. **This is your chance to thank God for something he's provided for you.** Close your prayer time by thanking God for each child in your group.

Remember that no child should be forced to pray, but do encourage and invite each one. After you have said "Amen," keep your group together until the next activity. During this time, you can quietly talk to the children in your group.

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