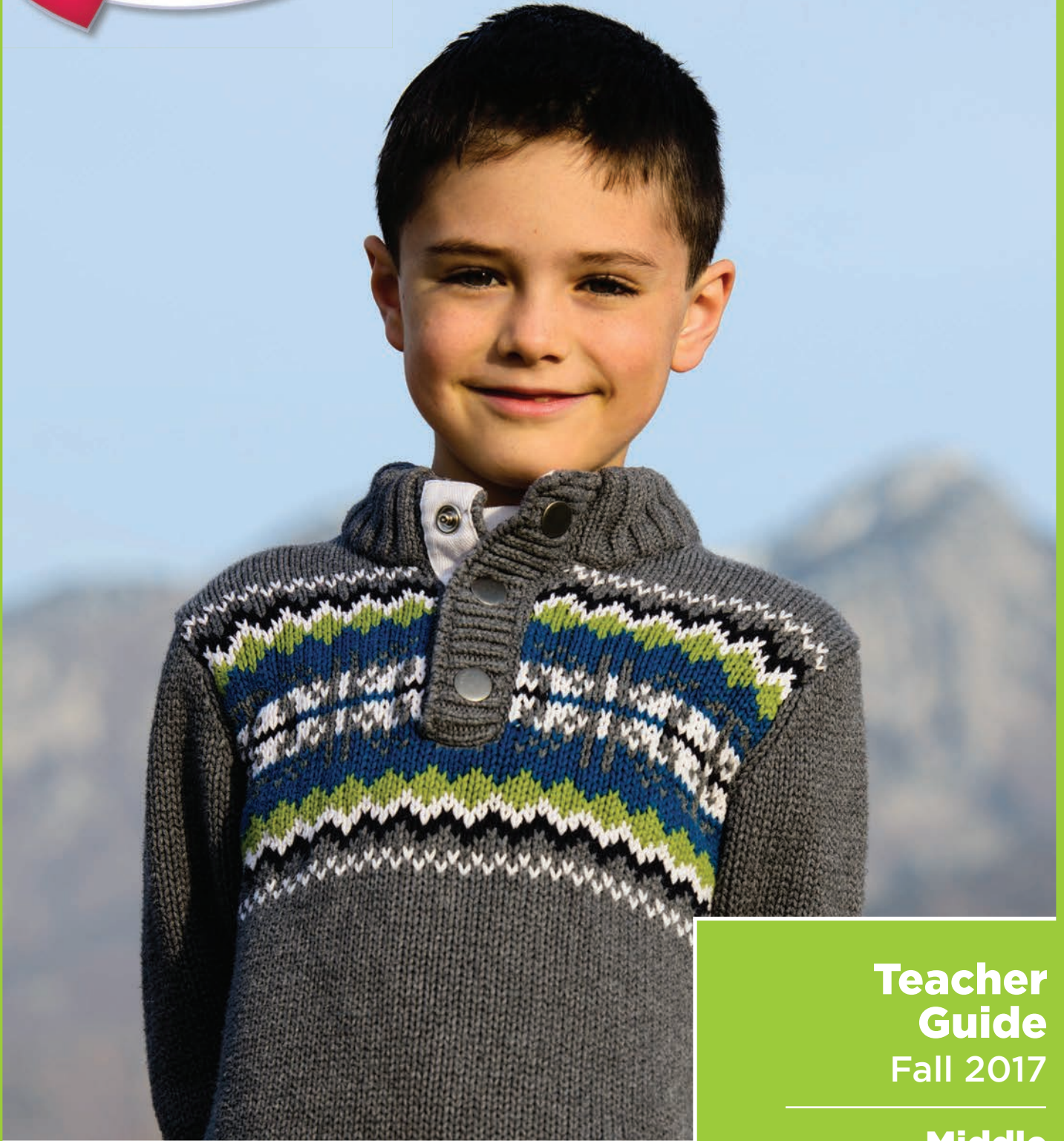




**Shape hearts.
Change lives.**



**Teacher
Guide**
Fall 2017

**Middle
Elementary**
Grades 3-4

Standard
PUBLISHING
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HeartShaper.com



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Grades 3–4

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Your opinions are important to us! We value your experience and listen carefully to your comments—guiding our curriculum development and improving HeartShaper. Go to HeartShaper.com/Opinions to take our short, 12 question survey and receive a free activity book download.

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How to Use HeartShaper[®]

Welcome to HeartShaper Children's Curriculum!

With HeartShaper Children's Curriculum, your students will be engaged in Bible stories through multisensory learning, Bible skill-building activities, and focused life application.

Here's how to start


- Pray for God's help to guide kids to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Read these introductory pages and the unit pages.
- Use the HeartShaper teaching tools.

How the lessons are organized

- 1 Focus In:** Kids are introduced to the lesson theme and focus.
- 2 Explore His Word:** Kids will interact with the Scripture passage and develop Bible skills.
- 3 Make It Real:** Kids will discover how the Scripture applies to their lives.
- 4 Live It Out:** Kids will plan and begin to practice the principles of what they've learned.

Important things to know

- **Bible Memory** lists the passage middle elementary kids will learn in each unit.
- **Focus** is the main thought that kids will learn and remember in each lesson.



God Is Amazing

Scripture: Psalm 66:1-5; Romans 11:33-36
Bible Memory: Genesis 11
Focus: ♥ God is worthy of praise.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion
Even though the Bible commands us to praise God, praise can become a natural and heartfelt part of every believer's life. As you prepare to teach your students about praising God, be aware of the times, places, and ways that you praise our amazing God.

Lesson 1

Lesson 1 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or both of these activities to help students discover the meaning of the word praise.</p>	<p>Quick Step Say What?</p> <p>Option Sticky Words</p>	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Say What? reproducible page • none 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scissors, pencils • dictionary, whiteboard, dry-erase markers, Bible dictionary, self-stick notes, pencils
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help students tell why God is worthy of praise.</p>	<p>Bible Exploration Psalm 66:1-5; Romans 11:33-36</p> <p>Bible Memory Genesis 11</p> <p>Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for lesson 1 • Resources sheet 3 • Resources CD Optional Bible Skills 1 and Bible Library printable files 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, pencils, recording device • Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker • Bibles, pencils
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help students explore what they can say to praise God every day.</p>	<p>Quick Step One of Those Days</p> <p>Option Praise Game</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for lesson 1 • Resources CD Praise Game printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils, paper clips • pencils, paper clips, game markers
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help students praise God.</p>	<p>Quick Step Praising God</p> <p>Option Smooth Praise Books</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for lesson 1 • none 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, pencils, recording device to show the recording • paper, scissors, pencils, colored pencils, crayons, recording device to show the recording

Middle Elementary Teacher, Unit 1, Lesson 1
7

Want more of an overview?

Go to www.heartshaper.com/for-teachers. Look at the Overview by Age Level, and click on Middle Elementary. Whether you're new to HeartShaper curriculum, not sure how to use the different parts of the curriculum, have never taught, or haven't taught for a while, take a few minutes to go through this overview. You'll be glad you did!

- **Quick Step[™]** activities are easy to prepare and teach. All that's needed are the curriculum materials and normal classroom supplies.
- **Option** activities are included in every step. YOU choose what works best for you and the different kinds of learners in your class.

Special Needs

Reach kids with special needs







HeartShaper gives the resources you need to train teachers and adapt lesson activities so you can include kids with special needs right in your Sunday school classes.



Look for this symbol throughout the teacher guide to identify activities that work well for all kids, including those with special needs. Additional helps for teaching kids with special needs can be found on the *Resources* CD and at www.heartshaper.com/special-needs.



Examples

<p>Option Love Commitment Bracelets </p> <p>Since we know that ♥ Jesus wants us to love God and others, let's plan on doing that. As you make love commitment bracelets, think about specific ways you'll show love to God and others this week. One color of lacing will help you remember to love God, another color will help you remember to love others, and the third color will help you remember that <i>you</i> are the one loving God and others.</p>	<p>Materials plastic lacing (or string) in 3 colors, scissors, tape  <small>Craft</small></p> <p>Media Option Go online to find different kinds of bracelets kids can make.</p>	<p>When you see this symbol after a title, it means the activity will work well for all kids, including those with special needs.</p>
<p>Option Thumbs-Up or Thumbs-Down</p> <p>ASK: What is hope? Accept responses. The dictionary says that <i>hope</i> is "to expect with confidence" or "to desire with expectation of obtaining something. <i>Hope</i> is the "feeling of excitement about something we are waiting for."</p> <p>SAY: I'm going to read some statements that have to do with hope. When you hear something that you hope for, give a thumbs-up. When you hear something that you don't hope for, give a thumbs-down. Ready?</p>	<p>Materials none  <small>Action</small></p> <p> If possible, pair the statements with pictures to provide context. Be sure to give enough wait time for students with learning delays to weigh in with their responses.</p>	<p>When you see this symbol in the narrow column, it may give you a helpful tip on how you can tweak the activity to make it better for kids with special needs.</p>
<p>Quick Step I Love This, You Love That</p> <p>Ask students to sit in a circle. SAY: Think of someone or something you love. When it's your turn, you will say what those before you said. Then say your name and add the name of a person or thing you love. You can start the game by saying, "My name is ___ and I love ___." The next kid should say, "___ (your name) is ___ and she loves ___. My name is ___ and I love ___." Keep playing until everyone has had a turn. When the game is over, lead a discussion about different kinds of love.</p> <p>ASK: How is the love you have for your parents different from the love you have for pizza? How is the love you have for a friend different from the love you have for a pet?</p>	<p>Materials none  <small>Game</small></p> <p>Teaching Tip Continue to display the poster for the quarter (<i>Resources</i> sheet 1).</p> <p> See the <i>Resources</i> CD lesson 4 printable files for another way you can help kids with special needs explore and understand different kinds of love.</p>	<p>Or this symbol may indicate that there's an adaptation on the <i>Resources</i> CD that will make the activity work better for kids with special needs.</p>



Shaping Special Hearts blogtalk radio show is for anyone who wants to learn more about ministering to families who have children with special needs. Listen as our hosts and their guests discuss topics such as developing a special needs ministry, helping families who have kids with special needs, and reaching out to the church and community in the area of special needs. On-demand episodes are available at www.heartshaper.com/special-needs/blogtalkradio.

Teaching Tools

These multisensory teaching tools are an integral part of HeartShaper!

Middle Elementary Activities

Your students will love the full-color activity leaflets designed just for them—they make Bible study fun!

- Helps kids dig deeper into Scripture
- Encourages kids to think for themselves



Middle Elementary Resources

These resources will help you engage kids with different learning styles. These multisensory teaching tools include visual, printed, and audio resources.



Kidz Chat® student magazine

This weekly student magazine helps kids take home what they're learning and helps their faith grow.



In the magazine you'll find:

- Short stories that kids can relate to
- Just for Fun puzzles and activities and a weekly cartoon

On the 8 sheets you'll find:

- Bible Memory posters (1 per unit)
- Bible time lines
- Maps and other visuals

On the CD you'll find:

- Recordings
- Printable files for kids: activity pages for in-class use, lesson Scriptures (KJV and NIV)
- Printable file for teachers: reproducible pages for lessons, Bible Memory posters (KJV), special needs helps, teacher helps



Go online to HeartShaper.com and SundaySchool.com

Go to **HeartShaper.com** to find loads of resources for teachers and families! You'll also want to sign up to receive the HeartShaper biweekly e-newsletter.

FREE online resources for teachers:

- Overview by age level
- Training videos
- *Family Connections* quarterly letters
- Holiday helps
- Special needs resources
- *Leading Young Hearts to the Lord* pocket guide
- Puppet patterns

FREE online resource for families:

- *Faith & Family* guide for family devotions

And at **SundaySchool.com**, check out all the ways you can purchase your HeartShaper curriculum—print, downloadable Microsoft® Word docs, and downloadable PDFs!



For simple lesson planning, get the **Middle Elementary Teacher's Convenience Kit**. It contains one *Middle Elementary Teacher Guide*, one set of *Middle Elementary Activities*, the complete *Middle Elementary Resources* pack, and one set of *Kidz Chat* student magazine.

Teaching Middle Elementary Kids

With HeartShaper, middle elementary kids will grow spiritually

Middle elementary kids can know these important facts:

- God is their creator, Jesus is God's Son, and the Holy Spirit is their helper and guide.
- God meets their needs.
- God loves them and sent His Son to die for them.
- They can tell others about Jesus.

Middle elementary kids can show these godly attitudes:

- Be aware of the need for salvation.
- Trust God to help overcome fears and temptations.
- Desire to worship God.
- Understand that God has plans for their lives.



Middle elementary kids can exhibit these desirable behaviors:

- Put God first in plans and activities.
- Tell the truth even when it's not easy.
- Show respect for those in authority.
- Pray regularly, including prayer for others.

See the entire list on the *Middle Elementary Resources CD* or at www.heartshaper.com.

With HeartShaper, middle elementary kids will develop Bible skills

Middle elementary kids will build on these Bible skills:

- Begin to understand the major emphasis of the Old and New Testaments
- Learn to read and pronounce names of Old and New Testament books
- Know how to find Bible verses
- Begin to read Bible verses

Middle elementary kids will develop these new Bible skills:

- Begin to understand the chronology of Bible events, that there's an overall story or theme to the Bible, that history is God's story
- Better understand the structure of the Bible
- Learn the major emphasis of the Old and New Testaments
- Feel increasingly confident when using the Bible

Middle elementary kids will gain even more with optional Bible skills:

If desired and you have time, the Optional Bible Skill Builder in each lesson (provided on the *Resources CD*) will help middle elementary kids learn these skills:

- Memorize Old and New Testament books
- Memorize Old and New Testament divisions
- Learn more about the theme of each of the Bible divisions
- Locate on a Bible map where key Bible events took place

See the entire list on the *Middle Elementary Resources CD* or at www.heartshaper.com.

Unit 1

Our Great God

Bible Memory

Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”



Bible Skills

Bible skills are intentionally integrated into each lesson. You'll help kids learn how to use their Bibles so God's Word goes deep into their hearts.

Look for this symbol throughout the teacher guide to identify activities that work well for all kids, including those with special needs. Additional helps for teaching kids with special needs can be found on the *Resources* CD and at www.heartshaper.com.



Lesson	Scripture	Focus
Lesson 1 God Is Amazing	Psalm 66; Romans 11	♥ God is worthy of praise.
Lesson 2 God Is Creator	Genesis 1, 2	♥ God made it all.

HeartShaper Materials for Unit 1

Middle Elementary Activities

Lessons 1, 2

Middle Elementary Resources

Visuals

- Sheet 1—Poster for the Quarter
- Sheet 2—Bible Time Lines
- Sheet 3—Genesis 1:1 Bible Memory Poster

CD

- Audio Track
 - God's Words, lesson 2
- Printable Files
 - Bible Dictionary, Bible Library, Prayer Request Cards
 - Unit 1: *King James Version* Bible Memory
 - Lessons 1, 2: *King James Version* Scripture texts, *New International Version* Scripture texts, Optional Bible Skill Builders
 - Lesson 1: Praise Game, Say What?
 - Special Needs Helps (see CD Contents for complete list of files)
 - Teacher Helps (see CD Contents for complete list of files)

Kidz Chat student magazine

Issues 1, 2

Additional Activities for Unit 1

Offer these activities for early arrivers, for kids who finish activities quickly, or whenever there is extra time.

Unit Service Project—Make-a-Book

Provide supplies for kids to make “Thank You, God” books for the preschool children in your church. Provide supplies such as construction paper, card stock, markers, colored pencils, old magazines, scissors, glue, hole punch, ribbon, and yarn. Remind kids that since preschool kids can’t read, they’ll want to keep the text fairly brief and either draw or cut out pictures of things that will help younger kids to thank God. Arrange ahead of time for your students to deliver their books to the preschool kids. Ask the preschool teacher if it would be OK to let each of your students read his book to a preschooler. Your students will discover how much fun serving God can be!

Bulletin Board

Let your students create a praise bulletin board. Cover a bulletin board with plain paper and provide colored pencils, markers, crayons, scissors, construction paper, pushpins, staples, or any supplies you choose. Allow students to be creative in decorating the bulletin board. Let students add words of praise to God.

Prayer Time

Make copies of the Prayer Request Cards reproducible page. (See the teacher contents page for the location of reproducible pages. Reproducible pages are also provided on the *Resources* CD.) When students have private requests they would like you to pray about, they can write them on the “Dear Teacher” request cards and place them in a box labeled “Prayer Requests for the Teacher.” When students have requests they would like their classmates to pray about, they can write them on the “Dear Friends” request cards for you to share during your prayer time.

Optional Bible Skill Builders

Use the Optional Bible Skill Builder activities provided on the *Resources* CD whenever you have time—before, during, or at the end of your class time.



God Is Amazing

Lesson 1



Scripture: Psalm 66:1-5; Romans 11:33-36










Bible Memory: Genesis 1:1

Focus: ♥ God is worthy of praise.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Even though the Bible commands us to praise God, praise can become a natural and heartfelt part of every believer's life. As you prepare to teach your students about praising God, be aware of the times, places, and ways that you praise our amazing God.

Lesson 1 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or both of these activities to help students <i>discover the meaning of the word</i> praise.</p>	 Interview  Write Quick Step Say What? Option Sticky Words	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Say What? reproducible page • none 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scissors, pencils • dictionary, whiteboard, dry-erase markers, Bible dictionary, self-stick notes, pencils
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help students <i>tell why God is worthy of praise</i>.</p>	 Discuss  Bible Memory  Bible Skills Bible Exploration Psalm 66:1-5; Romans 11:33-36 Bible Memory Genesis 1:1 Optional Bible Skill Builder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 1 • <i>Resources</i> sheet 3 • <i>Resources</i> CD Optional Bible Skills 1 and Bible Library printable files 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, pencils, recording device • Bibles, whiteboard, dry-erase marker • Bibles, pencils
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help students <i>explore what they can say to praise God every day</i>.</p>	 Object Lesson  Game Quick Step One of Those Days Option Praise Game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 1 • <i>Resources</i> CD Praise Game printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils, paper clips • pencils, paper clips, game markers
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help students <i>praise God</i>.</p>	 Pray  Art Quick Step Praising God! Option Smooch Praise Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 1 • none 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, pencils, recording, device to show the recording • paper, scissors, pencils, colored pencils, crayons, recording, device to show the recording

Focus In (10 minutes)

- 1 Use one or both of the following activities to help students **discover the meaning of the word *praise*.**

Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

Quick Step Say What?

Before class, cut apart the copies of the Say What? questions.

Try to find out one interesting thing about each student. Then have kids pair up and interview each other using the Say What? questions. When everyone is done, let kids share their partner's responses. SAY: **Sounds like a lot of you have praised your favorite team, celebrity, coach, or teacher.**

ASK: **What does the word *praise* mean?** (when you admire or appreciate someone, when you say nice things to someone)

Who are some other people you praise?

How does it feel when you receive praise?

SAY: **Let's keep thinking about praise and who is worthy of praise.**

Option Sticky Words

Be sure to introduce yourself. Then have a student look up the word *praise* in a dictionary. The student should read the definition aloud while you write it on the board.

ASK: **When you praise someone, what are you doing?** (showing value and appreciation to that person, admiring that person)

On a self-stick note, write some words of praise for one student, read it aloud, then stick it on that student's back. SAY: **Now you get to do the same. Write some words of praise on these notes for each person in the class. You can write something you admire about each person or something you appreciate about each person. Then you can stick the notes on each other.** Tell kids that if they don't know someone very well, they can still find something to admire or appreciate about that person, such as a nice smile or the way he is a good listener. Distribute the self-stick notes and pencils.

When everyone is done, let kids take off their sticky notes and read what others have written. Then have a student look up the word *praise* in a Bible dictionary. Have the student read the definition aloud while you write it on the board.

ASK: **How does it feel when you receive praise?**

SAY: **Let's keep thinking about praise and who is worthy of praise.**

Focus

♥ God is worthy of praise.

Materials

copies of Say What?
reproducible page
(one-half page per kid), scissors,
pencils



Note

See the teacher contents page for the location of reproducible pages. Reproducible pages are also found on the *Resources* CD.

Teaching Tip

Display the poster for the quarter (*Resources* sheet 1).

Materials

dictionary, whiteboard,
dry-erase markers, Bible
dictionary (printed or digital),
self-stick notes, pencils



Teaching Tip

Be sure that this is a positive experience for everyone. Encourage kids to write words of praise on everyone's self-stick notes, not silly or negative things.



See the *Resources* CD
Special Needs Helps 1
printable file for another way to
offer this activity for kids with
sensory problems.

Focus

♥ God is worthy of praise.

Explore His Word (25 minutes)

2 Use these activities to help students **tell why God is worthy of praise.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

The psalmist and Paul wrote from very different situations and for different purposes. Paul wrote while on a missionary journey to encourage a young church; the psalmist wrote a worship song to be used by the director of music. However, both stressed recognizing the unique characteristics of God that make Him worthy of praise.

The psalmist concentrated on two basic ideas: particular attributes of God and the ways that different people respond (or should respond) to those attributes. In the first category, the writer focused on God's powerful actions in our world. Note the rest of the psalm, in which he mentions several specific deeds. He was also careful to stress the fact that these deeds were done for the sake of people. This activity of God demonstrates His unlimited power. As a result, His enemies cringe and the whole world bows down to Him and sings praise. The psalmist urged his listeners and readers to join in the song. In fact, God's power is so awesome that it deserves a dramatic response: a shout of joy!

Paul focused not on the activity of God but on His wisdom. He looked at the different facets of wisdom (revealed truth), knowledge (information gained through experience), judgments (decisions or determinations), and paths (plans laid out and followed). He also considered the extent of God's wisdom, which he called deep and rich, beyond our understanding. He then asked where humans stand in comparison to God's wisdom. His question is asked often in Scripture (see Isaiah 40:13, 14). Obviously, the answer is that the human mind can contribute nothing to God's thinking. We are limited in a way that He is not. We can understand only as He reveals himself to us. ♥ God is worthy of praise!

Materials

Bibles, *Activities* for lesson 1, pencils, recording device (smartphone, tablet, camcorder, etc.)



Note

The Scripture text is provided on the *Resources* CD in both the *New International Version* and the *King James Version*, if you want kids to read from the same Bible version.

Bible Exploration Psalm 66:1-5; Romans 11:33-36

SAY: Today we'll look at verses from two books of the Bible—one Old Testament book and one New Testament book.

ASK: If some friends of yours didn't know where these books were found in the Bible, what could you tell them? (For a printed Bible, look at the table of contents in the front of a Bible to find the books. For a Bible on a tablet or phone, open the Bible to the contents page.)

ASK: Maybe your friends ask why there's an Old Testament and a New Testament. What would you tell them? Accept students' answers. (Responses could include: The Old Testament tells about God making the world. It tells about people like Noah, Moses, and Abraham. It tells about things that happened before Jesus was born. The New Testament tells about Jesus' coming to earth and dying on the cross. It tells how Christians like Paul and Peter told everyone about Jesus. It helps me know how God wants me to live.)

Have kids turn to Psalm 66:1-5, and have volunteers read the verses aloud.

ASK: What are some things God has done that are really wonderful? What are some things God has done that make Him awesome? Accept responses.

Distribute the activity leaflets and pencils. Ask kids to look at the Awesome God activity and write in the first space a few things that make God so awesome. Then let students share what they wrote. Ask kids to turn to Romans 11:33-36, and have volunteers read the verses aloud.

ASK: **What do these verses tell us about God?** (No one is greater than God. God made everything and everyone.) Help kids understand this passage by explaining that no one knows the mind of God and no one can give Him advice, because God's wisdom and knowledge have no end! These statements only describe God.

Have kids write what God is like in the second space. Then let students share what they wrote. Do this together as one group or let kids work with a partner on this. SAY: **Write your answers to this question in the third space: Why would you say that ♥ God is worthy of praise?** After a minute, ask volunteers to read what they wrote. **You've come up with lots of reasons why ♥ God is worthy of praise!**

Ask each student to choose his or her favorite reason to praise God and make up motions for that reason. After a couple of minutes, have volunteers share their favorite reasons to praise God and demonstrate the motions they came up with. Get out your recording device and record the students. You'll show the recording in Live It Out.

Bible Memory Genesis 1:1

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Display the Genesis 1:1 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Write "Genesis 1:1" on the board. Ask a volunteer to come to the board and tell what each part of the Scripture reference means. (Genesis is the name of the book, the first 1 is the chapter number, the colon separates the chapter and verse number, and the second 1 is the verse number.) Have students turn in their Bibles to Genesis 1:1, and ask a volunteer to read it aloud. SAY: **Genesis 1:1 is our Bible Memory.**

ASK: **How many of you know people who don't believe what Genesis 1:1 says? What do they believe?** Let students respond.

SAY: **If you don't already, you will have friends, teachers, or classmates who don't believe that God made the world. They may believe theories such as evolution that contradict the Bible. That's why it's really important for you to read and study the Bible, to get to know God and understand how powerful and awesome He is.**

ASK: **Now that you've read Genesis 1:1, what's another reason that ♥ God is worthy of praise?** (He made everything.) Ask students to read Genesis 1:1 together.

Materials

Bibles, *Resources* sheet 3, whiteboard, dry-erase marker



Media Option

Go to www.godtube.com or www.youtube.com and type in "Genesis 1:1." You may find a video clip that would help your students think about how truly amazing God the creator is.

Note

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources CD*.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print the *Resources CD* Optional Bible Skills 1 printable file.



Focus

♥ God is worthy of praise.

Make It Real (15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help students **explore what they can say to praise God every day.**

Materials

Activities for lesson 1,
pencils, paper clips



Competition can be difficult for some kids with special needs. Consider doing this activity as one group.

Materials

copies of *Resources* CD
Praise Game printable file
(1 per pair or small group),
pencils, paper clips, game
markers



Teaching Tip

With your students, come up with a few class rules (3 or 4 is good). Post them as “Our Class Promise,” and have kids sign the poster, promising to follow the rules.

Quick Step One of Those Days

SAY: **You've come up with lots of reasons why ♥ God is worthy of praise. Now let's see if we can figure out some things we can say to praise God every day.** Have kids turn in their activity leaflets to One of Those Days and think about what they can say throughout the day to praise God. Let students work for a few minutes; then go over each situation as a class.

After the activity, divide the class into two teams and give each team a pile of paper clips. Or you could let the students be one team and you be the other team. That would be a lot of fun for the kids! SAY: **For each sentence or phrase that your team can call out to praise God, you get to hook a paper clip to another paper clip. We'll see which team can make the longest chain.** Each team should work together, letting everyone on the team have at least one turn hooking the paper clips together. When time is up, see which team has the longest chain. **Your chains represent lots of things we can say every day to praise God. I hope you'll want to praise God every day since ♥ God is worthy of praise.**

Option Praise Game

ASK: **Since ♥ God is worthy of our praise, what are some things that we can say to praise God every day?** Let several students respond. Have kids think of things they might say silently to God or out loud as they go throughout a day, no matter where they are.

Let students play this game together as a group or divide the class into pairs. Distribute copies of the Praise Game. Go over the game instructions; then let students play the game. When kids are done playing the game, ask volunteers to share at least one thing they can say to praise God.

SAY: **God wants us to praise Him, not just when we're at the church building, but all the time. You can praise God with your words when you're at home, school, playing soccer—wherever you are!**

Live It Out (10 minutes)

4 Use one of these activities to help students **praise God**.

Focus

♥ God is worthy of praise.

Quick Step Praising God!

Show the recording of the kids praising God. Ask all the kids to join in praising God as you play the recording again. Then have students turn in their Bibles to Psalm 66:1-5. SAY: **One way for you to show that ♥ God is worthy of praise is to pray and talk with Him. Did you know that you can read a passage of Scripture as a prayer to God? Show kids how to do that by personalizing the passage, something like this: God, I shout for joy to You. I sing about You. God, You are awesome. You are so powerful. Amen.**

Have kids turn in their activity leaflets to Praying Well. Encourage them to write Psalm 66:1-5 as a prayer. When kids are done, SAY: **Praise God by praying to Him the prayers you just wrote. Think about how great and awesome He is, and that only ♥ God is worthy of praise.** Ask kids to silently read their prayers to God.

Option Smoosh Praise Books

SAY: **Now that you know lots of things you can say to praise God, you get to make your very own smoosh praise books.** Distribute materials and help students make the books, using the illustrations and instructions below. The first page of the book can be used as a cover. Students should label the remaining seven pages for each day of the week, one day per page. Kids are to write or draw things they can say to praise God. Guide them to think what they do on each day of the week, including church activities, sports, school, hobbies, and so forth.

When finished, show the recording of the kids praising God. Ask all the kids to join in praising God as you play the recording again. Have two or three kids pray, giving their praises to God. Before they pray, SAY: **Think about how great and awesome God is. Only ♥ God is worthy of praise.**



1. Fold the paper in half lengthwise. Crease well and unfold.



2. Fold the short sides of the paper together. Crease well. Do not unfold.



3. Fold ends up as shown to look like the letter *W*.



4. Cut on crease of middle fold. Do not cut outer flaps.



5. Unfold, and refold long sides together. Hold the outside short edges and push (smoosh) together to form an eight-page book.

Materials

Bibles, *Activities for lesson 1*, pencils, recording made in Explore His Word, device to show the recording (laptop computer, tablet computer, etc.)



Materials

paper, scissors, pencils, colored pencils, crayons, recording made in Explore His Word, device to show the recording (laptop computer, tablet computer, etc.)



Teaching Tip

Since this project may be too time-consuming to do in class or be hard for your students to fold, you may want to prepare the books before class.



As needed, be sure to assist kids with the folding and cutting. Remind them that they can write or draw.

Kidz Chat

Give each student a *Kidz Chat* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* devotional guide



available online to print and use with their kids at home. Go to www.heartshaper.com.

Just For You

A Teacher's Vision

Why We Teach Kids

Adults send messages to kids all the time—by their behavior.
Sometimes these messages discourage kids,
demean their worth or diminish their hope.

But a Sunday School teacher who arrives week after week
to faithfully love and look at, smile and listen to kids,
sends messages through behavior, too.

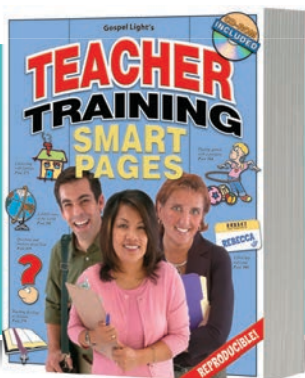
Those messages say:

“You are important to me and to God. I choose to spend time with you.”
“Your opinions and feelings matter to me because who you are matters to God.”
“You are valuable—not someday, but now. You are not a problem to me.
You are God’s gift. I am glad you are here!”

Where else in the world can a disheartened kid find such affirmation?
What better way could a lonely kid
find the welcome, acceptance and love that is in Christ?

This is how God’s kingdom comes—week after week, building life upon life.
To become faithful givers of such cheerful loving and patient teaching,
we must surrender ourselves to the love of God in Jesus Christ
Only He can empower us to love unselfishly, consistently and genuinely—
so that what we do sends the message that is truly from His heart.

Then our behavior will say that even without monetary compensation,
without applause or appreciation, we choose to love them
purely because we value them for who they are,
because we know Jesus loves them
and because we know
eternity would not be complete without their shining faces.




For more inspiration and training, you'll want to
get a copy of *Teacher Training Smart Pages*.
Available from your Christian retailer or at SundaySchool.com



Shape hearts. Change lives.

HeartShaper helps kids grow to know and love God and His Word—and live it out!

What makes HeartShaper unique?

- Kids take five journeys through the Bible by the time they reach 6th grade.
- Bible skills, integrated into each lesson, build on each other from one age level to the next.
- Activity options are included in most steps of each lesson.
- *Quick Step*™ activities, easy to prepare and teach, require no materials other than the curriculum and common classroom supplies.
- Special needs friendly activities are integrated into each lesson.  Additional resources are available at www.heartshaper.com/special-needs.

You'll want to use all the multisensory teaching tools provided with HeartShaper:



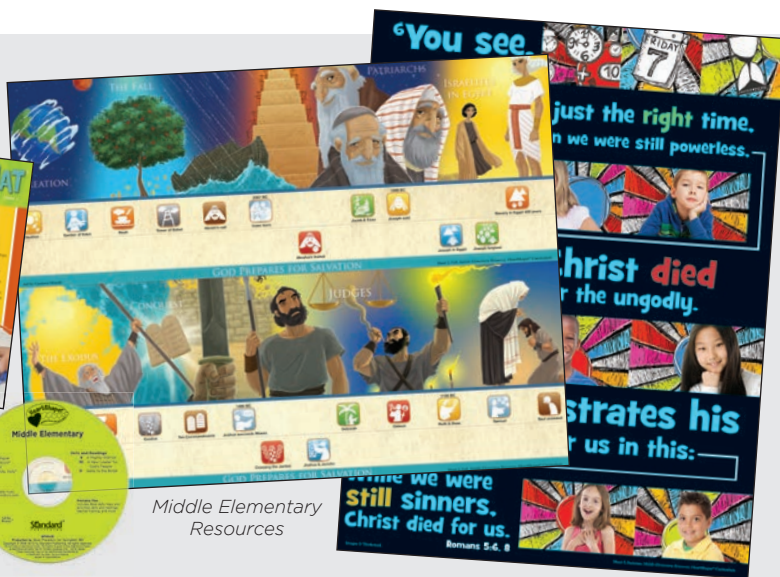
Middle Elementary Activities



KidzChat® Student Magazine



Middle Elementary Resources



Products sold separately or in a kit

Plus, check out FREE online resources at www.heartshaper.com.