

Noah's Ark



What is the STORY about?

God asked Noah to build a giant boat called an ark. The world had become so full of evil that God decided to flood it! Noah was a righteous man, and he obeyed God so God gave Noah a plan to help his family during the flood.

Noah's son, Shem, had just gotten back from his honeymoon and he wasn't sure he liked this new plan. Noah's family spent a year on the ark while Shem kept trying to make his own plans! But God showed Shem and the whole family that He knew everything was going to be okay and they could trust Him.

- *A Lesson in Trust*
- *Key Passage: Genesis 6-9*
- *Running Time: 50 Minutes*



What do you THINK?

- **How did Shem feel about God's plan? Why do you think he felt that way?**
(Shem didn't like God's plan. He wanted to follow his own plan!)
- **Why did God flood the earth?**
(Because the people had become so sinful and the world was full of evil. Genesis 6:5-8)
- **How do you think Noah felt when God told him to build a giant boat?**
(Answers will vary, but probably confused! But Noah was righteous and did what God said. Genesis 6:22)
- **Which animal do you think was the loudest on the boat?**
Make the sound that animal makes on the count of 3: 1, 2, 3!



What does the BiBLE say?

The story of Noah and the ark can be found in Genesis 6-9. Read the story in a translation that is easy for kids to understand OR tell it in this condensed version.

Noah was a righteous man who lived in a world that was very un-righteous . . . in fact, it was so full of sin and evil that God decided to flood the world that He had made! But God had a plan to make sure that things would be okay in the end. He asked Noah to build a big ark and put two of every kind of animal with his family inside it. Noah did just what God asked, and after Noah, his family, and the animals were in the ark, the rain started. It rained for 40 days and 40 nights, and the entire earth was covered in water.

When it finally stopped raining, Noah sent a raven out to find land, but it came back to him. Then he sent a dove, and it came back too. A week later, Noah sent the dove again, and it came back with an olive branch. This meant that the water had started to go down! The flood was ending. God put a rainbow in the sky and made a promise to Noah that He would never flood the earth again.

Noah's Ark



ACTIVITY

After reading the story of Noah, play a floating game! Have each person find 2 objects in the house. They can be anything you don't mind getting a little wet! (Things like a spoon, a marker, a rubber duck, an empty plastic bottle, or an apple.) Then fill up the bathtub, a sink, or a large bowl with water. Take turns seeing which objects float and which objects sink right away!



What can we DO?

God wants us to trust Him, even when things are hard, scary, or confusing! Noah must have been scared and confused when God told him to build a big boat because He was going to flood the world. But throughout the Bible, God showed His people (including Noah!) that He was always trustworthy and always had a plan. Have a conversation about trusting God starting with the following questions:

- Can you think of another story in the Bible where someone had to trust God even when they didn't know what was going to happen?
- How does it feel to know that God has a plan for you, and you don't have to worry about what is going to happen?

Look up these verses in your Bible and read them aloud.

- **Psalm 56:3 NIV** "When I am afraid, I put my trust in you"
- **Isaiah 26:3 NIV** "You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you."
- **Romans 8:28 NIV** "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

3 Things to remember about Noah

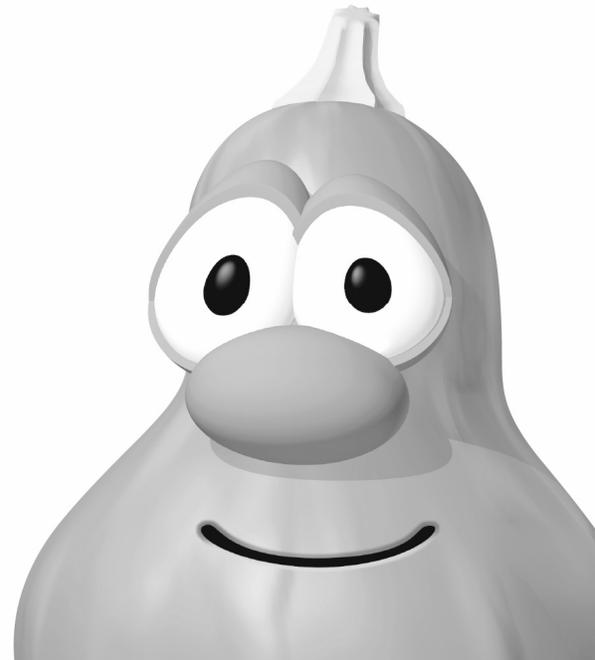
1. Noah **TRUSTED** God.
2. Noah **FAITHFULLY** followed God's instructions.
3. God **SAVED** Noah and his family from the flood.

KEY VERSE

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." **Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV**

KEY NUGGET

I can trust God even when I don't know his plan, because I know He is always good.



Abe and the Amazing Promise



What is the STORY about?

Bob the Tomato tries to bring the Bible story of Abraham and Sarah and their wait for a promised son to life, but when spitting camels and a film crew of zany French peas get involved, everyone's patience is tested! Can Bob pull everything together in time to teach a lesson? Whether they're waiting on a promise from God or cookies from mom, kids will learn that while being patient is never easy, the reward is always worth the wait!

- *A Lesson in Patience*
- *Key Passage: Genesis 17, 18, 21*
- *Running time: 14 minutes*
- *Bonus Show: "Blunders in Boo-Boo-Ville" (27 minutes)*



What do you THINK?

- *Name some characters in the story that needed patience. (Junior, Bob, Abraham and Sarah)*
- *Junior was impatient for what reason? (He wanted the cookies his mom promised)*
- *Why was Bob losing his patience? (Everything seemed to go wrong when he was trying to film the show)*
- *What were Abraham and Sarah waiting for that required patience? (A baby)*
- *What made Junior change his mind about being impatient? (Bob told him that he needed to trust his mom to "do what she says she's gonna do" just as Abraham and Sarah needed to trust God)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The biblical account of Abraham, Sarah, and their son Isaac is found in Genesis 17, 18, and 21. Read the story from your Bible OR tell it in this condensed version.

God appeared to Abram and told him that he would be the father of many nations. Abram was puzzled. He and his wife, Sarai, were very old and had no children. How could he have many descendents when he had no children of his own? God changed Abram and Sarai's names to Abraham and Sarah and promised that He would bless them with a son. Abraham fell face down and laughed when God told him that he would be a father. Sarah laughed, too, when she overheard the news that she would become a mother. They were too old to become parents! Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 when their baby boy, Isaac, was born... just as God promised!

Abraham and Sarah needed patience when they were waiting for their promised son. Talk about "patience" and what it means.

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **ROMANS 8:25** "But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."
- **1 CORINTHIANS 13:4** "Love is patient, love is kind..."
- **PSALM 40:1** "I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry."

The Story of Abraham and Sarah



ACTIVITY

Direct the children to stand in a circle.

Since Abraham was 100 years old when his son, Isaac, was born, tell the children that you are going to count to 100, with each of the children giving a number in numerical order. When someone reaches the number 5 or a multiple of 5, he says “Be Patient!” Example: The leader says 1, the next player says 2, next is 3, then 4, and then the next player says “Be Patient!” Play continues with 6, 7, 8, 9, and then “Be Patient!”

After the number 99, EVERYONE shouts: “Be Patient!” The quicker the count, the more difficult the game. If a person misses his number or forgets the count, he sits down at his place in the circle.

Younger children will enjoy singing the familiar song “Father Abraham” which is recorded on the CDs *More Sunday Morning Songs with Bob and Larry* and *25 Favorite Sunday School Songs*.



What can we DO?

Encourage the children to give examples of times when they have needed patience. Promote conversation and discussion with these questions:

- *What are some things that require patience? (Learning to play a musical instrument, waiting for a seed to grow, waiting until you're old enough to do something, etc.)*
- *Name a situation that you are waiting for or something that you want to happen in your life. Why is God's timing more important than your timing? (Answers will vary.)*

3 Things to remember about Abraham

1. Abraham was **PATIENT** in waiting for the birth of his promised son
2. He was **100 YEARS OLD** when he became the father of Isaac
3. God blessed Abraham as the **FATHER OF MANY NATIONS**

KEY VERSE

(Hebrews 6:15) “And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.”

KEY NUGGET

It isn't always easy to wait, but we need to be patient and trust God.



The Ballad of Little Joe



What is the STORY about?

You've heard the story of Joseph and his coat of many colors before, but we reckon you've never heard it told as a Western... until now! Join Little Joe (Larry the Cucumber) and his rootin' tootin' French pea brothers on an adventure that will take them from an abandoned mineshaft all the way to Dodge Ball City—with Little Joe's faith being tested every step of the way. It's a Wild West adventure that teaches kids to keep the faith when facing hardship because, in the end, God can work all things out for good.

- A Lesson in Facing Hardship
- Key Passage: Genesis 37-50
- Running time: 25 minutes



What do you THINK?

- Why were Little Joe's brothers jealous of him? (Because their father favored him, and he told them that he had a dream about their bowing down to him)
- How did Little Joe get to Dodgeball City? (His brothers sold him to desperadoes who took him there)
- Miss Kitty lied about Little Joe stealing money. Why? (She was jealous because he was popular and had just been named Employee of the Month)
- How did Little Joe earn his freedom from jail and become the second most powerful man in Dodgeball City? (By interpreting dreams)
- When Joe's brothers came to Dodgeball City for food, how did he react? (He realized they were sorry for what they had done and he forgave them)



What does the BIBLE say?

The account of Joseph's life is found in Genesis 37-50. Read select portions of those scriptures in a translation that is easy to understand OR tell the story in the following condensed version.

Jacob lived in the land of Canaan with his twelve sons. Joseph was born when his father was old, and so his father loved him more than his other sons. He even made a special brightly-colored coat for him to wear. Of course, this made the other brothers jealous. Now Joseph was a dreamer... not of ordinary dreams. God sent important dreams to Joseph that had special meanings. When Joseph told his brothers of the dreams that meant his brothers would someday be bowing down to him, they became very angry, took his special coat, and threw him into a pit. Soon a group of traders on their way to Egypt happened by, and the brothers sold Joseph to them. The brothers dipped Joseph's coat in goat blood and returned to their father to tell him a lie... that Joseph had been killed by a savage animal. Jacob was very sad and could not be comforted. Joseph was sold to Potiphar, the Egyptian captain of the palace guard. He realized how wise Joseph was and witnessed how hard he worked, so he placed him in charge of his house. When Potiphar's wife lied about something Joseph had done, he was sent to prison. But God was with Joseph and gave him the ability to interpret dreams, which eventually gained him a position with the king as ruler of all the land in Egypt. As Joseph predicted from the dreams, there were seven years of good crops and then seven years of famine. When his brothers came to Egypt during the famine in search of food, they did not recognize Joseph. When they discovered who he was, they were afraid because of the terrible things they had done to him. But Joseph forgave his brothers, brought his father to Egypt, and gave them everything they needed. What Joseph's brothers intended for harm, God used for good!

The Story of Joseph



ACTIVITY

Scatter several green paper cacti (or other obstacles) in a designated area. Ask for a volunteer to be blindfolded and placed at one end of the area. The rest of the group will direct him to the other end of the cactus desert with verbal commands. He must TRUST the group for directions—just as we must TRUST God for direction in our lives. See if anyone can make it to the other side of the desert without touching a cactus!



What can we DO?

As you talk about Joseph and how the bad things that happened in his life turned out for good, ask the children to think of a time when something bad happened to them. Next, ask them if they can think of any good that came out of that situation. (Example: Broke an arm and wasn't able to play basketball for the season, but spelling grades improved because of extra time spent on homework.)

Additional questions to encourage discussion:

- *Have you ever felt that God isn't listening to you?*
- *Are you aware of any disaster or unpleasant situation from which God has protected you?*
- *When is the last time that you relied on God to see you through a difficult time?*

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **ROMANS 8:25** *"But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."*
- **1 CORINTHIANS 13:4** *"Love is patient, love is kind."*
- **PSALM 40:1** *"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry."*

3 Things to remember about Joseph

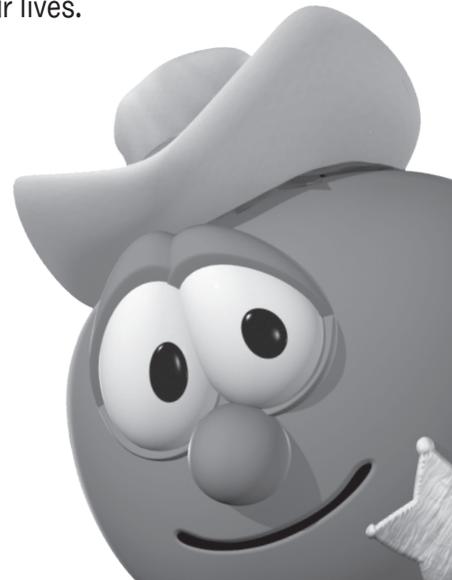
1. God gave Joseph the ability to **INTERPRET DREAMS**
2. His father gave him a **COAT OF MANY COLORS** that caused his brothers to be jealous
3. Joseph **FORGAVE** his brothers for the terrible things they had done to him

KEY VERSE

(Romans 8:28) "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him."

KEY NUGGET

Trust God and his purpose for everything that happens in our lives.



Moe and the Big Exit



What is the STORY about?

Moe is a good-natured cowboy living high on the hog out in Dodgeball City while his kinfolk are hard at work digging the Grand Canyon. Upset by the way his family is treated, Moe stands up to the zucchini foreman and sends him up the river. Feeling poorly about his actions, Moe heads for the hills. He eventually returns to Dodgeball City and tells the mayor to “let my people go!” The heartless mayor refuses, and a heap of trouble comes to town. With God’s strength and direction, Moe helps free his people from their bondage in Dodgeball City once and for all.

- *A Lesson in Following Directions*
- *Key Passage: Exodus 2-14*
- *Running time: 37 minutes*



What do you THINK?

- *Why was the mayor worried that there were too many workers at the Grand Canyon? (He was afraid the workers would take over the town of Dodgeball City)*
- *How did God speak to Moe in the woods? (Through a burning tumbleweed)*
- *Who was going to do the talking for Moe? (His brother, Aaron)*
- *Why was Moe successful in leading his people away from the mayor of Dodgeball City? (Because he followed God’s instructions)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The story of Moses is found in Exodus 2-14. Read applicable portions from your Bible OR tell the story in this condensed version.

Moses was born to Hebrew parents during a time when the king of Egypt was being very mean to God’s people. To protect her baby boy, Moses’ mother placed him in a special basket and set him afloat in the Nile River. Pharaoh’s daughter discovered the basket and claimed the baby as her son. When Moses was grown, he went to visit his people, the Hebrews. He discovered that they were being treated badly and forced to work very hard as slaves. Moses broke the law by defending one of the slaves and ran far away.

God heard the cries of his people who were being treated badly. God spoke to Moses through a “burning bush” and told him to go back to Egypt with his brother, Aaron, to tell Pharaoh to free his people. When Pharaoh refused to let God’s people go, God sent a series of plagues to the Egyptians until Pharaoh finally set them free. Soon afterwards he changed his mind and sent his army to capture the slaves he had set free. God’s people were trapped between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army. They were afraid, but Moses trusted God. The Lord God instructed Moses to raise his hand over the sea. When he did, a strong wind made the sea become dry ground so that Moses and his people could escape from the Egyptians. When Moses raised his hand over the sea a second time, the waters returned and none of the Egyptians survived. God’s people were free at last!

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **PROVERBS 3:5 & 6** “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”
- **PSALM 118:14** “The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”

The Story of Moses and The Exodus



ACTIVITY

Tell the children to form a circle around a pretend campfire to tell a Cowboy Campfire Tale. Instruct the children to retell the story of *Moe and the Big Exit*. The leader begins by saying that after Moe and his brothers were no longer around Dodgeball City, the mayor made Moe's people work very hard. He was afraid there were too many workers, so... (At this point, ring a dinner bell or a cow bell and instruct the next person to add a couple of sentences to the story.) Continue ringing the bell after every couple of sentences to change storytellers until the complete story has been told. Make sure that each child has a chance to contribute to the story.



What can we DO?

Ask the children to give examples of times when they had to rely on God in difficult situations. Encourage conversation with the following questions:

- *God spoke to Moses through a burning bush. How do you think God speaks to us today? (Through the Bible, our teachers and our parents)*
- *Aaron and Moses realize that the mayor will not "let the people go" unless they follow God's plan and rely on him. Have you ever had a hard time deciding if you should follow God's directions instead of your own?*
- *Moe thought he was too weak to lead his people, but God told him that he would give him strength. Has God ever given you strength to do something that you thought you would never be able to do?*

3 Things to remember about Moses

1. Baby Moses was placed in a **BASKET** in the Nile River
2. Moses **FOLLOWED GOD'S DIRECTIONS** in leading the Israelites
3. The **RED SEA** swallowed up the Egyptians after Moses and his people crossed through on dry land

KEY VERSE

(Psalm 28:7a) "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped."

KEY NUGGET

We need God's strength and direction to help us in our every-day decisions.



Josh and the Big Wall



What is the STORY about?

After forty years of wandering in the desert, the children of Israel finally get to go to the Promised Land! Only one little thing they've overlooked... Jericho! Surrounded by large walls and bristling with annoying peas, Jericho is the only way to get to the Promised Land! But how? Joshua has God's directions, but they sound kind of... well, weird. To make matters worse, some of the Veggies are cooking up a plan of their own! In the end, they have to decide whether it's better to do things their way, or God's way!

- A Lesson in Obedience
- Key Passage: Joshua 5-6
- Running time: 22 minutes



What do you THINK?

- Why were the Israelites wandering in the desert for forty years? (They didn't always obey God)
- When Moses died, who became the new leader of the Israelites? (Joshua)
- Who gave Joshua the directions about bringing down the walls of Jericho? (A messenger from God)
- How did some of the Israelites want to knock down the walls? (They wanted to use their homemade rocket)
- What were the Israelites supposed to do to make the walls come down? (March around the walls once a day for six days and on the seventh day, march seven times, blow trumpets and shout after the seventh time)



What does the BIBLE say?

The story of Joshua and the city of Jericho can be found in Joshua 5 and 6. Read the story in a translation that is easy to understand OR tell it in this condensed version.

With Moses as their leader, God's people, the Israelites, wandered in the desert for forty years after fleeing from Egypt. When Moses died, Joshua became the new leader to take them to the Promised Land. A "Commander of the Lord's Army" appeared to Joshua when they were near the city of Jericho... a city that God had promised to his people. He told Joshua to march with his army and the ark (a special wooden chest that the Israelites had carried with them for the last forty years) around the city of Jericho one time every day for six days. On the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times and instruct the priests to blow their trumpets as they march. When they heard the long blast, all the people were instructed to shout. Then the walls of Jericho would crumble, and the city would be theirs.

So the Israelites walked around the city of Jericho with the ark each day, blowing their trumpets as they marched, but not saying a word as Joshua commanded them. On Day 1 they circled the city and again on Day 2 Day 3, Day 4, Day 5, and Day 6. Then on Day 7, the Israelites got up at dawn and marched around Jericho just as they had before. But on this day, they marched around the city seven times. On the seventh time around, Joshua gave the command for the priests to blow their trumpets and the people to SHOUT! And when the trumpets sounded and the people shouted, the walls of Jericho fell. Joshua obeyed the Lord's instructions, and he gave the Israelites the city of Jericho... just as he promised.

The Story of Joshua



ACTIVITY

After reading the story of Joshua to the children, help them build a tall city of blocks in the middle of a large area. Instruct the children to sit in a circle around the city as you retell the story, and then have them participate as you read the part about the Israelites marching around Jericho. Supply each child with a kazoo, party horn, or other inexpensive noisemaker OR instruct the children to clap loudly and make a lot of noise for the last march around the city as they knock down the walls.



What can we DO?

God wants us to be obedient to him, to our parents, to our teachers, and to those in authority over us. Initiate conversation about obedience with the following questions:

- *Can you think of a time when your friends wanted you to do something that you knew your parents would not want you to do?*
- *Have you ever convinced someone else to do something that you knew was wrong?*
- *How do you feel when you are punished for not doing something your parents or teacher asked you to do or for doing something you were not supposed to do?*

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **LUKE 11:28** "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."
- **JOHN 14:23a** "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching."
- **EPHESIANS 6:1** "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."

3 Things to remember about Joshua

1. Joshua was **OBEDIENT** to God's instructions
2. His army **MARCHED 7 TIMES** around Jericho as God directed
3. The **WALLS OF JERICO CRUMBLLED**

KEY VERSE

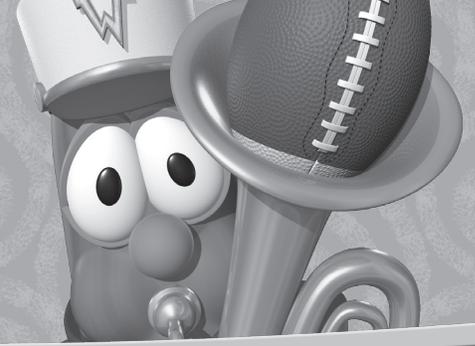
(2 Samuel 22:31) "As for God, his way is perfect."

KEY NUGGET

Following God's direction and obeying him is always the best way.



Gideon: Tuba Warrior



What is the STORY about?

Gideon is the incredible story of a hero chosen by God to defend his people against an army of 30,000 excessively hairy pickles! However, the reluctant, tuba-playing Gideon is better trained at marching in formation than he is at marching into battle, but the angel insists that Gideon is the one God has chosen to protect his people. Accompanied by a mere six carrots and six peas, will Gideon be able to stand up against an army of thousands?

- *A Lesson in Trusting God*
- *Key Passage: Judges 6-7*
- *Running time: 23 minutes*
- *Bonus Show: "The Story of George Mueller" (8 minutes)*



What do you THINK?

- *Why didn't Gideon think he should go to battle against the Midianites? (He didn't think he would make a good warrior)*
- *Gideon wanted God to give him two signs to prove that he was the one chosen to lead the army. What did he ask God to do? (Make the lamb's wool wet and the ground dry; make the lamb's wool dry and the ground wet)*
- *Why was Gideon getting worried about facing 30,000 excessively hairy pickles? (The angel kept directing him to decrease the size of his army)*
- *How did Gideon and his army defeat the Midianites? (By following God's instructions... dividing up and using their horns and flashlights)*
- *What does Gideon do in the parade at the beginning of the show that makes you think he is humble? (He stops the parade to correct the announcers who are talking about how brave and fearless Gideon is)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The story of Gideon is recorded in Judges 6 and 7. Read the story directly from your Bible in an easy-to-read version OR tell it in this condensed version.

The Midianites were making life miserable for the people of Israel. Gideon was one of Israel's ruler-judges. An angel appeared and told him that the Lord would help him defeat the Midianites. Gideon was afraid to go to battle, and he asked God for two signs so that he would know for sure that God would lead him. First, he put a sheep fleece on the ground. One morning the fleece was wet and the ground was dry. The following morning, the fleece was dry and the ground was wet. Because of these two signs, Gideon was convinced that God had chosen him to march into battle. So Gideon gathered his army. God told him that his army was too large, so Gideon sent home all the men who trembled with fear. God told him there were still too many men and instructed him to eliminate those who knelt down to drink from the water and to keep the men who lapped the water like dogs. Gideon's army of 32,000 men was now decreased to 300! With trumpets and jars holding torches, his small army defeated the Midianite army of thousands. Gideon's army won a great victory that day because they trusted in God.

The Story of Gideon



ACTIVITY

God told Gideon that his army was too big and he needed to eliminate some men. Recall with the students how these men were eliminated.

(He sent home those who were afraid and those who knelt down at the water to drink.) Pretend that your group is “Gideon’s Army,” and instruct the children to stand in a line/lines. Have fun eliminating “soldiers” for various reasons: cannot “roll” their tongue, write left-handed, can’t whistle, can’t wiggle their ears, have green eyes, have red hair, don’t have any freckles, wear glasses, aren’t wearing tennis shoes, can snap fingers, etc. When the fun is over, talk about the reason for Gideon’s small army. (God wanted Gideon to defeat the Midianites with a small army so that he would know it was God who gave him the victory.)



What can we DO?

Ask the children for examples of real-life situations when they are afraid. (Examples: afraid of the dark, afraid to go to the dentist, afraid of being teased, afraid to go to camp, afraid of not being chosen for a team). Discuss possible solutions, encouraging the children to think about courage, trust, and what God would want them to do. Then ask these questions:

- *What should we do when God asks us to do something that we don’t want to do or we don’t think we can do? (Put our trust in God)*
- *God gave Gideon a sign, but how do we know what God wants us to do? (Read the Bible; pray; listen to family, Christian friends, teachers, pastors, etc.)*

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **PSALM 27:1** “The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?”
- **JOSHUA 1:9** “...Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

3 Things to remember about Gideon

1. Gideon was a **BRAVE WARRIOR** who trusted God
2. **LAMB’S WOOL** was used for the signs to prove that God wanted Gideon to lead his army
3. Gideon’s small army used **TRUMPETS AND TORCHES** to defeat the Midianites

KEY VERSE

(Proverbs 3:5 & 6) “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

KEY NUGGET

God can give us courage if we trust in him when we are afraid.



Duke and the Great Pie War



What is the STORY about?

When the armies of the empire of Rhubarb go to battle against the Kingdom of Scone, the Great Pie War breaks out and things get really messy. Sweet Petunia, a charming young rhubarb, is forced to flee her homeland and live in a tree stump in a foreign land. When the Duke learns of the Princess' plight, he risks his life to help her and learns that true love means thinking of others first.

- *A Lesson in Loving Your Family*
- *Key Passage: Ruth 1-4*
- *Running time: 22 minutes*
- *Bonus Show: "Baby Sitter in DeNile" (11 minutes)*



What do you THINK?

- *Why did Petunia feel uncomfortable in the Kingdom of Scone? (She was from Rhubarb and the citizens of Scone didn't like Rhubarbarians)*
- *How did Nona lose her husband and son, Princess Petunia's husband? (In the Great Pie War)*
- *What kind deed had Petunia done for her mother-in-law, Nona? (She gave up being a princess in Rhubarbaria to take care of her aging mother-in-law in Scone)*
- *Nona had one half of the Golden Duck Crest. Who had the other half? (Otis the Elevated—the brother of her husband, Gildersleeve)*
- *How was Duke able to get the other half of the crest? (By winning a jousting match with Otis the Elevated)*



What does the BIBLE say?

Ruth's story is found in the Bible's book of Ruth. Read the applicable portions to your group in a translation that is easy to understand OR tell the story in this shortened version.

Long ago, when the judges ruled Israel, there was not enough food for everyone. A man named Elimelech left Jerusalem and moved to Moab with his wife, Naomi, and their two sons. Elimelech later died, leaving Naomi with only her two sons. The two sons married women from Moab, but eventually both of the sons died, too. Naomi was left alone without a husband and without sons, so she decided to move back to her homeland. Both of her daughters-in-law agreed to go with her, but Naomi insisted that they stay in Moab with their families. One daughter-in-law stayed, but the other daughter-in-law, Ruth, would not part with the aging Naomi. So Ruth and Naomi returned to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest. Ruth went to the fields and worked very hard to gather grain that the workers had left behind. The field she was working in belonged to a rich man named Boaz—a close relative of Elimelech's family. When he saw Ruth in his field, he was very generous to her because of all the kindness she had shown Naomi. He offered her something to eat and drink and he told his servants to be very kind to Ruth. Boaz was a good man. He married Ruth and bought back everything that belonged to Elimelech and his sons so that all of the property would stay in his family. Ruth and Boaz soon had a son. The son was named Obed. Obed was Jesse's father, and Jesse was the father of David. God blessed the generations of Ruth for her love and kindness to Naomi.

The Story of Ruth and Naomi



ACTIVITY

Create simple “Family Love Coupons” (computer-generated or handwritten and designed by the students) for distribution to each child.

Brainstorm with the children about possible acts of kindness for family members by saying this: **God loves everyone in your family and you can love them, too, by putting their needs above your own. Think of something you can do for each family member, write it on a coupon and place it somewhere at home where the family member will find it.** (Younger children will need assistance with ideas and writing.)



What can we DO?

Ask for volunteers to tell about their families or distribute paper and crayons for each child to draw a picture of his/her family. Promote

conversation with the following questions:

- *Why are families important?*
- *What can you do to put others first in your own family?*
- *Have you ever done something really special for another family member?*
- *Has a family member ever done something really special for you?*

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **PSALM 133:1** “How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity.”
- **1 THESSALONIANS 4:9** “Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.”
- **HEBREWS 13:1** “Keep on loving each other as brothers.”

3 Things to remember about Ruth

1. **NAOMI** was Ruth’s aging mother-in-law
2. Ruth was **DEVOTED** to helping and caring for Naomi
3. While working in the **GRAIN FIELDS**, Ruth met Boaz

KEY VERSE

(Romans 12:10) “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

KEY NUGGET

Love your family... always think of others in your family before yourself.



Dave and the Giant Pickle



What is the STORY about?

Ever felt like you were too little to do anything big? That's how a little shepherd boy named Dave feels when his big brothers head off to defend their country, leaving him behind with the sheep. "Big people do big things, and little people do little things," they tell him. They're in for a surprise, though, when they find out their foe is much bigger than they thought! In this hilarious re-telling of the classic Bible story of David and Goliath, kids learn that with God's help, even little guys can do big things!

- *A Lesson in Self-Esteem*
- *Key Passage: 1 Samuel 17*
- *Running time: 16 minutes*



What do you THINK?

- *Since Dave was the smallest and youngest of the shepherd brothers, what did his older brothers always make him do? (Pick up the sheep that were tipped over)*
- *Why couldn't Dave go fight the Philistines with his brothers? (He was too little)*
- *How did Dave get the chance to fight the giant pickle? (Everyone else was afraid)*
- *With God's help, how did Dave defeat the giant? (With a stone in a slingshot)*
- *Why was Dave brave when he faced Goliath? (Because he was a child of God, and he knew that God would help him)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The Bible story of David and Goliath can be found in 1 Samuel 17. Read the story to the children in a translation that is easy for them to understand OR tell it in this condensed version.

The Philistines gathered their army together to fight God's people, the Israelites. Three of Jesse's eight sons went to fight in this war. The Philistines had a champion in their army named Goliath who stood over nine feet tall. He wore a helmet on his head, a heavy suit of armor, and carried a large spear. He was very big and scary. Every day for forty days, Goliath came forward to take a stand. The Israelites were afraid of him and ran away. One day Jesse sent his youngest son, David, to the warriors' camp with food for his older brothers. He saw Goliath as he was shouting and coming forward. Goliath shouted bad things to the young Israelite, and David replied, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty." As Goliath moved to attack, David ran forward to the battle line. He threw the stone he had placed in his sling and struck the Philistine. The stone sank into his forehead, and Goliath fell face down on the ground. With only a stone... and God's help... David defeated the great champion Philistine!

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **MARK 9:23** "Everything is possible for him who believes."
- **MARK 10:27** "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."
- **LUKE 1:37** "For nothing is impossible with God."

The Story of David and Goliath



ACTIVITY

Have each child think of one or two words that would describe how they are special. (Examples: freckles, good friend, big sister, tall, funny, brave, good runner) Give each child a slip of paper and pencil to write their word/words and place them all in a container. Take turns pulling out the slips of paper and guessing who wrote each description.

Option: Place a piece of masking tape on the wall from the floor upwards so the children can visualize the height of Goliath (9 ft.) Collect a pile of small stones, and emphasize that one small stone brought down the big giant. Let each child select one stone and have them write (with permanent marker) the “special” word/words they selected to describe themselves. Encourage them to keep the stone as a reminder of the story of David and as a reminder that they are special.



What can we DO?

Remind the children that each one of them is special, they can do anything God wants them to do, and they can be anything God wants them to be!

Ask volunteers to complete the following sentences. (Encourage the children to be honest with their answers and understanding of the answers of others.)

- *I am brave when...*
- *When I am scared, I...*
- *The thing I like most about myself is...*
- *Someday I would like to...*
- *I am special because...*
- *My favorite thing to do is...*

3 Things to remember about David

1. The Philistine giant, **GOLIATH**, did not frighten David
2. A **STONE** in his sling brought down the giant
3. David was **BRAVE** because God was on his side

KEY VERSE

(Matthew 19:26) “... with God all things are possible.”

KEY NUGGET

With God’s help, you can do anything!



King George and the Ducky



What is the STORY about?

Once upon a time there lived a king who had a really neat castle and a lovely little kingdom. But unlike other kings, King George spent most of his time... in the bathtub! Why? Because that's where he'd play with his favorite toy: his rubber ducky. But one ducky wasn't enough for King George. He wanted all the duckies! Discover what happens when this cucumber king makes a huge mistake, deciding that the most important person in the world is himself! Can he learn to put others first before it's too late? King George and kids will learn that when we are selfish, we hurt the people around us.

- *A Lesson in Selfishness*
- *Key Passage: 2 Samuel 11-12*
- *Running time: 19 minutes*
- *Bonus Show: "The Englishman Who Went Up a Hill" (8 minutes)*



What do you THINK?

- *Who did King George think was the most important person in his kingdom? (Himself)*
- *How do you know that George is a greedy king? (He has many duckies, but he wants the ducky that belongs to Thomas)*
- *How does King George get the ducky that belongs to Thomas? (He sends Thomas to the Pie War and then steals the ducky)*
- *What changes King George's mind about taking someone else's ducky? (The flannel graph story that was told by Melvin—the slightly old wise man)*
- *Melvin tells King George that he should ask God to forgive him, ask Thomas to forgive him, and what else? (Make it right by giving the ducky back to Thomas)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The Bible story of David and Bathsheba is found in 2 Samuel 11 and 12. Read appropriate portions to your group OR tell the story in this modified version.

David was the king of Israel. His country was at war, so David sent his commander, Joab, and the whole Israelite army off to battle while he remained at home in Jerusalem. One evening David walked out onto the roof of his palace and saw a very beautiful woman. David discovered that her name was Bathsheba and was the wife of one of his soldiers, but still he ordered one of his messengers to bring Bathsheba to him. David wanted Bathsheba for his wife, so he ordered Joab to place her husband on the front lines of battle so that he would be killed. When that happened, David took Bathsheba as his wife.

The Lord sent Nathan, the prophet, to talk with David. Nathan told him the story of two men in a city—one was a rich man and the other was poor. The rich man had lots of cattle, but the poor man had only one little lamb that he and his family loved. When a traveler stopped to visit the rich man one day, he wanted to give him something to eat. He did not want to take his own cattle, so he took the poor man's lamb, killed it and cooked it for his visitor. When King David heard the story, he was furious with the rich man. He told Nathan that the rich man should die, and he should pay the poor man four times over for the terrible thing he had done. Then Nathan told David that he was the rich man—he had taken the wife of one of his soldiers and had the soldier killed. David realized what he had done and said, "I have sinned against the Lord." David discovered that being selfish can hurt the people around us.

The Story of King David



ACTIVITY

Talk about the meaning of the words “selfish” and “greedy.” King George was greedy because he wanted ALL of the duckies in his kingdom. Use

the following materials to illustrate what can happen when we become greedy:

- Thin napkin or tissue
- Key ring with keys or similarly-weighted objects
- Large glass or pitcher of water

Have children hold the corners of the tissue while you place the key ring in the center. Note that the key ring represents each one of us, and the water represents the “things” that we want. Begin by slowly pouring the water over the keys and continue until the key ring breaks through the tissue. Explain that a little of something is not bad, but when we are never satisfied and want more and more, our greed and selfishness can hurt us.



What can we DO?

Give each child a chance to answer the questions: “What would you like more of?” and “Why?”

Encourage discussion about when “enough is enough” and when we should be content with what we have—even sharing what we have with others.

Have fun with an exercise in conversation. Ask the children simple questions. (Examples: What do you like to do in the summer? What are your favorite subjects in school? What gift would you like for Christmas or your birthday?) Children must answer the questions without using the words: “I,” “Me,” or “My.” It is difficult to have a conversation without referring to ourselves!

3 Things to remember about David

1. David wanted **BATHSHEBA** for his wife
2. **GREED** caused David to have Bathsheba’s husband killed
3. God granted **FORGIVENESS** to David for the sin that he had committed

KEY VERSE

(Romans 12:10) “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.”

KEY NUGGET

We need to think about the people around us instead of just making ourselves happy.

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **PHILIPPIANS 2:3** “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.”
- **PHILIPPIANS 4:11,12** “... I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances... I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation...”



Esther... The Girl Who Became Queen



What is the STORY about?

The king needs a new queen, and a small town girl named Esther has been chosen! But when Esther wakes up with the weight of the world on her shoulders and the fate of her people in her hands, can she find the courage to do what's right? Filled with drama, humor and great music, the story of Queen Esther teaches kids that you never need to be afraid to do what's right!

- *A Lesson in Courage*
- *Key Passage: Esther 1-10*
- *Running time: 37 minutes*



What do you THINK?

- *Esther was just an ordinary girl. How did she become the Queen of Persia? (She won a beauty contest)*
- *Why did King Xerxes like Esther's cousin, Mordecai? (He saved the king from having a piano dropped on him)*
- *Haman, the king's right-hand man, didn't find favor with Mordecai and Esther's family. What did he convince the king to do? (Sign an order to ban their family to the Island of Perpetual Tickling)*
- *Why was Esther afraid of going to the king to tell him about Haman's plot? (No one was to appear before the king without being invited)*
- *What happened to Mordecai and Haman at the end of the story? (Mordecai became the king's right-hand man, and Haman was sent to the Island of Perpetual Tickling)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The biblical account of Esther is found in the book of Esther. Read applicable portions to the children OR tell the story in this condensed version.

King Xerxes of Persia was searching the entire kingdom for a beautiful woman to become his new queen. Esther was a very beautiful Jewish girl and was one of the women brought to the palace as a possible queen successor. Esther did not tell anyone about her Jewish family. Mordecai, Esther's cousin who took care of her because she had no parents, worked for the king and was able to check on her daily. When it was time for Esther to go before King Xerxes, he was very pleased and crowned her as his new queen.

Two of the king's officers became angry at King Xerxes and were planning to kill him. Mordecai overheard their plans and told them to Queen Esther. Esther reported the plot to the king and gave Mordecai the credit for saving the king's life. After all of these things happened, King Xerxes promoted another of his officers, Haman, to a higher rank, and all of the other officers had to bow down and kneel to him. Mordecai was a Jew and refused to bow down or kneel to anyone but God, so Haman became very angry and convinced the king to sign an order that all of the Jews in the land were to be killed. Mordecai told Esther that she must tell the king of Haman's plot, but Esther knew it was against the law to approach the king unless she was invited. But Esther was courageous... her people were depending on her. When she approached the king, he was pleased and held out his scepter for her to come forward. Esther told King Xerxes of Haman's plan to destroy her people. The king was so angry with Haman that he had him killed, and Mordecai was promoted to his position. Because of Esther's courage, all of the Jewish people in the kingdom were saved.

The Story of Esther



ACTIVITY

Before class, find a large sack or bag in which to place assorted items. Examples: ink pen, piece of candy, paper clip, rubber bands, tape. Place one item into the bag (without the others looking), and ask for a courageous volunteer to stick his hand into the bag and identify the object. Promote discussion about courage and being scared to do something when you don't know what to expect. Option: "Taste of Courage" - Have blindfolded students taste a variety of foods (baby jar fruits, raisins, pasta, finger gelatin).



What can we DO?

Talk about these situations that require courage:

- *Going to a new school where you don't know anyone*
- *Standing up for someone or something when everyone else is against you*
- *Confronting a friend that is doing something wrong*
- *Admitting that you've cheated or made a mistake when no one would ever know*

If time allows, encourage role playing to emphasize the real-life situations mentioned.

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **1 CORINTHIANS 16:13** "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong."
- **JOSHUA 1:7a** "Be strong and very courageous...."
- **2 THESSALONIANS 3:13** "And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right."

3 Things to remember about Esther

1. **ORDINARY GIRL** chosen to be queen of King Xerxes
2. She was **COURAGEOUS** at just the right time
3. She **SAVED HER PEOPLE** from being killed

KEY VERSE

(Esther 4:14b) "And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

KEY NUGGET

It takes courage to do the right thing.



Rack, Shack and Benny



What is the STORY about?

To celebrate the sale of two million chocolate bunnies, company president Nebby K. Nezzer announces that his workers may eat as many bunnies as they like! This sounds great, until three boys named Rack, Shack, and Benny remember that their parents taught them not to eat too much candy. By paralleling the biblical story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the fiery furnace, *Rack, Shack, and Benny* teaches kids how to resist peer pressure and stand up for what they believe in.

- *A Lesson in Handling Peer Pressure*
- *Key Passage: Daniel 3*
- *Running time: 22 minutes*



What do you THINK?

- *Why did Mr. Nezzer allow everyone to eat as many bunnies as they wanted for 30 minutes? (To celebrate the sale of two million chocolate bunnies)*
- *Why did Rack, Shack, and Benny decide not to eat so many bunnies? (Their parents said they shouldn't eat too much candy)*
- *Why did Mr. Nezzer become angry with his three new Junior Executives and send them to the furnace? (They refused to sing and bow down to the giant bunny)*
- *How did the three candy workers survive the furnace? (God was with them in the furnace and protected them)*



What does the BIBLE say?

The biblical account of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego is found in Daniel 3. Read the story to the children in a translation that is easy for them to understand OR tell it in this condensed version.

King Nebuchadnezzar built a golden statue that was ninety feet high and nine feet wide. He demanded that everyone bow down to the statue when the music played. Anyone who did not bow down would be thrown into a blazing furnace. There were three Jewish boys named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who ruled over some of the events of Babylon and refused to bow to the king's golden statue even though everyone else did. They would only bow to the one true God. King Nebuchadnezzar was furious and ordered the three to be thrown into the furnace. He demanded that the furnace be heated seven times hotter than usual and commanded his strongest soldiers to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The three men were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The fire was so hot that it killed the soldiers who took the men to the furnace. King Nebuchadnezzar looked into the blazing furnace and saw four men—not three—walking around in the fire untied and unharmed. The king shouted for them to come out. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the fire and everyone saw that they had not been burned... in fact, they didn't even smell like smoke! King Nebuchadnezzar began praising God and commanding everyone in the kingdom to respect the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He then promoted the three to higher positions in the province of Babylon.

The Story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego



ACTIVITY

Play an adaptation of “Simon Says” to show your group how easy it is to fall into the trap of doing what someone else does. Choose a leader to be Nebby who shouts out commands such as “touch your nose,” “wave your left hand,” or “jump up and down.” The leader executes all of the commands, but the others are expected to obey the commands only when they are preceded by the words, “NEBBY SAYS.” For example, the leader says, “NEBBY SAYS scratch your head.” The leader and all others scratch their heads. If the leader says, “snap your fingers” and begins snapping his fingers, the others should not follow the command because it was not preceded by “NEBBY SAYS.” When a person makes a mistake by making a movement that he shouldn’t, that person sits down. The quicker the commands are given, the harder it is to think quickly and obey.



What can we DO?

Peer pressure is hard to resist. Ask the children to describe some difficult situations they are facing. Use these real-life situations for starters:

- Nicole is playing at her friend’s house after school. Her friend wants to watch a movie that Nicole knows her parents would not want her to watch. What should Nicole do?
- Adam’s mom wants him to invite Ethan, a boy who lives down the street, to Bible School. Nobody at school likes Ethan, and Adam doesn’t want to be embarrassed by taking him to Bible School. What should Adam do?

Help the children find these Bible verses to read aloud.

- **1 PETER 3:14** “But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.”
- **PROVERBS 21:2, 3** “All a man’s ways seem right to him, but the Lord weighs the heart. To do what is right and just is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.”

3 Things to remember about Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

1. They **REFUSED TO BOW DOWN** to the statue of gold
2. They were **SAVED** by God while in the furnace
3. The three men **TRUSTED** God to help them do what was right

KEY VERSE

(2 Thessalonians 2:15) “... stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you...”

KEY NUGGET

Stand up for what is right and for what you believe in.

