

Bible detectives

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Bible detectives

LETTER TO THE LEADERS

This term we're going to have lots of fun pretending to be Bible detectives as we teach the children to use, love and explore the Bible. We will focus on 1 Chronicles 16:8-36, specifically the actions we do to give God the praise and glory He deserves.

For a bit of excitement the children will go home with a "Bible Detective Question". The aim is to encourage them, and their family, to look it up in the Bible and be ready to answer it the following week at Children's church. An idea is to have a chart where everyone's correct answer gets a sticker and if the stickers reach the top goal by the end of the term, we will celebrate with a party!

First prize is that every child brings their own Bible to study from, but we know this is not possible, so we have made a booklet with all the Bible verses they will need each week. Please let them still take turns with yours so that they can firstly see that it is not our opinion but God's word and secondly know how to look it up for themselves.

Lesson One : Bible detectives get ready

Main focus for the lesson:

- Learn how to look up a verse in the Bible.
- To discover what 1 Chronicles 16:8-25 tells us we must do.
- Learn the verbs from this verse as an intro for the term on what we should be doing.
- Instil a passion and revelation in the children that the Bible is God's message to them.

1) Memory Verse

• 1 Chronicles 16:8-25

⁸ <u>Give</u> thanks to the LORD and call out to Him! <u>Tell</u> the nations what He has done! ⁹ <u>Sing</u> to Him; <u>sing</u> praises to Him. <u>Tell</u> about the amazing things He has done. ¹⁰ <u>Be proud</u> of His Holy name. You followers of the LORD, be happy! ¹¹ Depend on the LORD for strength. Always <u>go</u> to Him for help. ¹² <u>Remember</u> the amazing things He has done. <u>Remember</u> His miracles and His fair decisions. ¹³ The people of Israel are His servants. The descendants of Jacob are His chosen people. ¹⁴ The LORD is our God. He rules the whole world. ¹⁵ <u>Remember</u> His agreement forever, the promise He gave that will never end.

Idea to teach the memory verse

The verse will be looked at in more detail in this lesson as well as in the weeks to come. The aim for now is to make them aware of the particular actions this verse refers to. Once the children have found or deciphered these words/verbs as described in the hands-on section, allocate an action to each of them.

Let them practice them a few times. Use the pictures provided as a guide.

Let them plactice them a lew times. Ode the plotates provided as a galac.			
Give = kiss finger tips	Go = run on spot	Sing = pretend microphone	
and put arms out		and say la la la.	
Tell = hands cupped by	Be proud= bump fist on	Remember = tap side of	
mouth and say "God is	heart, chin up	head and say "think think	
good"	· ·	think"	

Once they are familiar with the actions read 1 Chronicles 16:8-25 to them. Get them to listen carefully and perform the action when they hear the word. Try repeating the verses with the underlined words to help them make the connection between the word and the actions we are required to actually do.

2) Hands on

a) During arrival

Older children: (are able to read)

Hide the "CODE PICTURES" throughout the venue.



As the children arrive give them each a "DECIPHER THE CODE" activity page and pencil to work out the word/verb for each picture.

These words will be used as part of the Bible Lesson and memory verse.



Younger children: (unable to read)

Print and cut up a set of the "mini Bibles" for each child and hide them in the venue. As each child arrives they must try and find one of each to make up a full set.

Help them to remember the words by looking at the pictures.



3) Bible Story + Lesson:

Start the lesson by playing a few simple rounds of Simon Says to get the kids settled.

In the game we just played how did you know when to put your hands on your head? *Simon said.* And how did you know when to jump up and down? *Simon said.* If Simon didn't say, should you have done it? *No*

Do you know there is someone even better than Simon who has given you instructions that He wants you to follow? Do you know who it is? Yes, it is God Himself.

Where do you think you can find these instructions? Yes, in the Bible!

The Bible is God speaking to us! I'm sure you've heard that before but I want you to think for a minute just how important that is. It's so exciting I am going to say it again... the Bible is GOD.. SPEAKING... TO YOU!

Let's first look at what happens when God speaks...

Genesis is the first book of the Bible and it is filled with God speaking.

Vs 3 God said, "Let there be light!" And light began to shine. Vs 6 God said, "Let there be a space to separate the water into two parts!" ... and it happened!

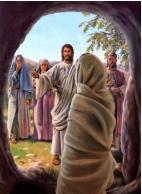
In fact everything God said ... HAPPENED!



We see the same thing when God's son, Jesus, spoke ... when there was a big storm Jesus told the wind and the waves "Be Quiet, Be still!", and they were! When He spoke to sick people to get up and walk - they did. When Jesus told Lazarus – who had been dead for 4 days - to come out of the tomb, he did!







(have your Bible out of sight in your bag) What if I told you that God has spoken and in my bag here I have His message written especially for someone here. Remember it's not just any message but a message from God. Put your hand up if you want this message to be for you.

(reveal the Bible) Well fortunately this message is for every single one of you. And the best thing is that God has given us the Holy Spirit, who lives inside us, to help us understand what this message means and help us remember what it says. With that in mind the best thing to do before you read this message is to ask the Holy Spirit for help. Let's do that now. (encourage the children to pray now and each time they read the Bible)

There are many ways God talks. He utters (2 Samuel 22:14) in a small still voice (1 Kings 19:12) and He speaks with a mighty voice (Psalm 68:33). One of the many ways God speaks to us is through the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16 teaches us that every word in the Bible is chosen to be there by God. And God has chosen those words to teach us and to correct us when we do wrong. Isn't that exciting! We can read the Bible and find out:

- What God says about Himself
- What God says about His son, Jesus.
- What they have done and
- What they are still going to do.
- What God expects us to do and what not do.
- He even gives us examples of people that listened and obeyed and people that did not and the consequences of both.

And even though God can just speak and make you follow and believe, He lets you have the choice:

- A choice to read the Bible
- A choice to believe what it says
- A choice to believe in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit
- A choice to love and obey Him
- And a choice to not

This term we are going to be Bible detectives. We are going to look in the Bible (God's message to us) at 1 Chronicles 16. And we are going to learn about all the different ways to praise and glorify God.

And then you get to choose...

to sit and do nothing... or to get into action!

BIBLE DETECTIVES GET READY!

(Create a fun secret handshake/response when you say this each week so that the kids get excited and focussed to look up something in the Bible)

Spend some time showing the children how to look up the verse in the Bible:

- find the book on the contents page and go to that page number
- find the chapter by looking at the BIG numbers
- find the verse by looking at the small numbers

book verse
\ \ \ \ \
1 Chronicles 16:8
\ chapter

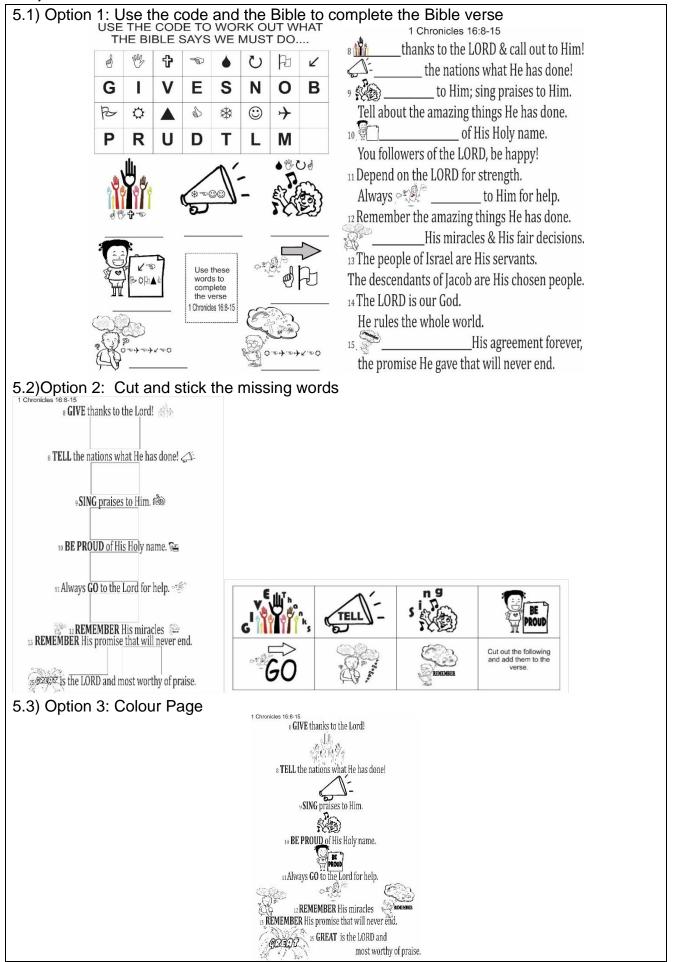
BIBLE DETECTIVES GET READY: Using the words they found earlier, together with the Bible, help the children complete the Bible verses.

1 Chronicles 16:8-15 thanks to the LORD & call out to Him! the nations what He has done! 9 to Him; sing praises to Him. Tell about the amazing things He has done. _____ of His Holy name. You followers of the LORD, be happy! 11 Depend on the LORD for strength. Always ______ to Him for help. 12 Remember the amazing things He has done. His miracles & His fair decisions. 13 The people of Israel are His servants. The descendants of Jacob are His chosen people. 14 The LORD is our God. He rules the whole world. _____His agreement forever, the promise He gave that will never end.

4) Bible Detective Question

- a) How many books are there in the Old Testament? (39 books)
- b) How many books are there in the New Testament? (27 books)

5) Craft



Lesson Two: Give thanks to the Lord

Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus is our great example. He thanked God for His provision, for hearing Him and for saving His people
- We too must say thank-you to God for all He has given us, for always hearing us and for saving us from our sins.

1) Memory Verse

1 Chronicles 16:8

Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim His greatness

Idea to teach the memory verse

Use the following actions to teach the memory verse starting off in a quiet whisper toward a loud proclaiming shout!

Give thanks – kiss finger tips and put out hands

to the Lord - lift both hands in the air towards God.

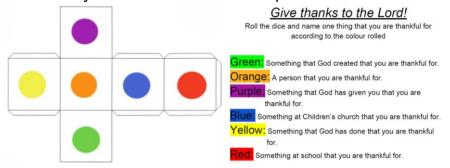
and proclaim - act out using a trumpet

His greatness - fist pump

2) Hands on

2.1) "Thankful for" game

During arrival, the children can play a "Thankful for" game using the coloured dice and the "Give thanks to the Lord" colour key sheet found in the media pack.



The children say what they are thankful for according to the colour that the dice lands on.

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

Have the "evidence" set up at different stations around the room with footprints between each station to follow to the next. Divide the children into as small groups as possible.



At each "evidence" station there will be a picture, a verse to look up in the Bible and the case to solve: "I can thank God for..."

Use the questions and information below to help them find the correct answers.

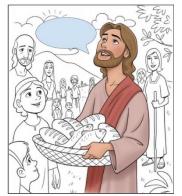
If children have their own Bibles let them bring them along and help them find the verse – even if they can't read it. You can print the verse out so more can follow **but** make sure to have at least one Bible as children need to know how to find the answer and that it is part of God's Word. Older children can answer their questions in their "Bible detectives booklet"

BIBLE DETECTIVES GET READY!

We have a new case to solve!!! We have our most Special agent, The Holy Spirit, here to help us solve the mystery of what we need to say to God. He does this by revealing Jesus to us. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Word of God, so as we read the Bible today, we are learning from the greatest example - Jesus!.

/This week's action word is "GIVE THANKS!" But what must we give thanks for? To help us answer this question I have found 3 pieces of evidence. We are going to examine the evidence together and see what Jesus did in each situation.

Evidence #1: **JOHN 6:1-11**



Do any of you recognise the story that this piece of evidence is showing us? (Jesus feeds the 5000)

Who do you think Jesus is talking to? (God)

What do you think He is saying to God?

Is He complaining to God that all they have are a few loaves of bread and a few fish? (*No!*)

Let's look up and read the clue from the Bible. Read John 6:1-11

What is He thanking God for: (*Provision of food*)

What has God provided for you that you should thank Him for? (Food, clothes, family, etc)

¹¹ Jesus took the loaves of bread and <u>gave thanks</u> for them. Then He gave them to the people who were waiting to eat. He did the same with the fish. He gave them as much as they wanted.

What is this passage of scripture about? (John 6:1-11) Jesus feeding the 5000.

What does Jesus do before handing out the loaves and fish to the people? (John 6:11) He gave thanks to God.

What was Jesus thanking God for? For His provision of food.

I can thank God for the things He has (ivegn __given__me.

Evidence # 2

Before we look at this next piece of evidence I need to first give you a little bit of background information from the Bible. John 11:1-44 tells us about a man named Lazarus who was very sick and even though his sisters, Mary and Martha, took good care of him he kept getting sicker and sicker. Jesus was good friends with Lazarus and his sisters so everyone was very surprised that Jesus didn't hurry to Lazarus' house to heal him. Instead, Jesus said that what was happening would show how great God is. Jesus waited two days before leaving to see Lazarus! While Mary and Martha were waiting for Jesus to arrive, Lazarus got so sick that he died. But that wasn't the end!

When Jesus eventually got there He cried as Mary and Martha took Him to Lazarus' tomb. Jesus then told them to move the stone away from the door of the tomb and Martha said "but it's going to smell. He's been dead for 4 days!" Jesus reminded her that they would see God's greatness and they rolled the stone aside.

(show them the evidence)

JOHN 11:41-42



This picture shows us what happened next.
Who do you think He is talking to?
Do you think He is complaining about His friend being dead?

Let's read the clue from the Bible **John 11:41-42** to find out

⁴¹ So they moved the stone away from the entrance. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I <u>thank you</u> that you heard me. ⁴² I know that you always hear me. But I said these things because of the people here around me. I want them to believe that you sent me."

Who was Jesus talking to? (John 11:41) His Father, God

What was Jesus thanking God for? (John 11:41) Thank-you for hearing me

The Bible tells us that Jesus said thank you to God for hearing Him. He said that God always listens

Can we talk to God as our Father? YES!

Does He always hear us when we talk to Him? YES!

11)) 3

unscramble

I can thank God for always (ehagrni) _____ hearing ____ me.

Evidence #3

So Bible detectives, do you think that we have solved the case? What has Jesus given thanks to God for so far? (*Provision, Hearing His prayers*)

Let's have a look at this last piece of evidence to confirm our case.

LUKE 22:17,19



Does anyone know what this picture is of?

Before Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He had a last meal with His disciples. He shared the bread to remind them of His body that would be killed and the wine to remind them of His blood that would be shed.

Let's look at our Bible verse clue Luke 22:17;19 to see what Jesus did just before handing them out.

¹⁷ Then Jesus took a cup of wine. He gave thanks to God for it and said, "Take this cup and give it to everyone here. ¹⁸ I will never drink wine again until God's kingdom comes." ¹⁹ Then he took some bread and thanked God for it. He broke off some pieces, gave them to the apostles and said, "This bread is my body that I am giving for you. Eat this to remember me." ²⁰ In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup of wine and said, "This wine represents the new agreement from God to his people. It will begin when my blood is poured out for you."

What did Jesus do when he took the cup? (Luke 22:17) He gave thanks to God. What did Jesus do when He took the bread? (Luke 22:19) He thank God for it. What do you think Jesus was really thanking Him for by doing this? Jesus was thanking God for saving His people from their sins.

I can thank God for.... ______ sending Jesus to save me from my sins.

Let's check if we have solved the case. Having looked at all the evidence and our greatest example, JESUS, we know that we can give thanks to God for his provision, for hearing our prayers and salvation in our lives!!!

4) Bible Detective Take Home Question

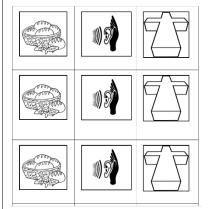
When Jesus healed the 10 lepers, how many said thank you? Luke 17:11-19 (one)

Craft

Option 1: Create thankful cards for the children to start a 'Give thanks' jar at home



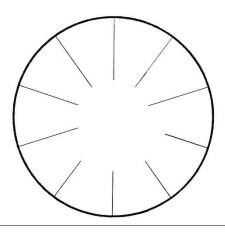
Option 2: Make a 'Give thanks' cube.



Give each child a cube template with the 3 things that Jesus thanked God for: Provision, That He hears us, For our salvation

Option 3: Give thanks wheel





The two circles will be attached at the end using a split pin.

- On the back circle get the children in each segment to write, draw or cut out pictures from magazines of things they are thankful to God for.
- On the front circle cut out the segment by the trumpet so that when the two are joined the specific pictures can be seen.

Please give this to the children the week before Easter so parents can sit together and read the journey of Jesus up to Easter Sunday.

If parents have the Youversion app there is a lovely 7 day reading program called a Children's guide to Easter. Which this reading plan is based on.

Date	Scripture	
Sunday 13 April 2019	John 11:45-55	
	The plot against Jesus	
Monday 14 April 2019	Matthew 20:17 and John 12:1-9	
	Jesus visits his friends	
Tuesday 15 April 2019	Zechariah 9:9 and Mark 11:1- 11	
	The Triumphal Entry	
Wednesday 16 April 2019	Mark 11:15-17 and Luke 22:14-20	
	The last supper	
Thursday 17 April 2019	Mark 14:32 – 43, Mark 14:55-61 and Mark 15:9-15	
	The Garden of Gethsamane	
Friday	Mark 15:16-20 and Mark 15:25-37	No.
	The cross	
Saturday	Mark 15:46, Mark 16:1-3 and John 20:11-18	
	The Resurrection	

Lesson Three: TELL the good news every day.

1) Memory Verse

1 Chronicles 16:8

"Tell the nations what He has done!"

Idea to teach the memory verse

Play the Hillsong Kids song: "Tell the World" and then read through the lyrics with them. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWLZ1w3lqAQ

Let the children break up into small groups and come up with some fun dance moves for the chorus.

"Tell The World"

Don't want to stand here and shout Your praise

And walk away and forget Your Name I'll stand for you if it's all I do Cause there is none that compare to You

Cause all I want in this lifetime is You And all i want in this whole world is you

Tell the world that Jesus lives
Tell the world that, tell the world that
Tell the world that he died for them
Tell the world that he lives again

No longer I but Christ in me Cause it's the truth that set me free How could this world be a better place? But by thy mercy and by thy grace

C'mon, c'mon we'll tell the world about You C'mon, c'mon we'll tell the world about You

C'mon, c'mon we'll tell the world about You
Tell the world that
Tell the world that
C'mon, c'mon we'll tell the world about You
Tell the world that
Tell the world that
About You

2) Hands on

2.1)Tell us

Today we are going to play a giant game of what is commonly called Guess who, but for us as detectives today we are going to play TELL US.

Print out 2 Sets of the cards.

- One set needs to be fairly BIG so that the children can see it stuck up on the wall.
- The other set is cut up and put face down on a table.
- Leader A is going to work with the children and help the children formulate and ask their questions.
- Alred Africa Anne Bernard Dill Charles Claire

 France

 Claire

 France

 France
- Leader B is going to choose a card from the table and only he will be able to see who is on the card. And can only answer the children's question with "yes" or "no"
- Children need to ask Leader B questions to find out which person he has. The Questions need to be asked in this format.

Tell us... is your person a man.

Tell us... does your person wear glasses.

Tell us ... does your person have red hair.

• As the children eliminate people Leader A can take those people off the board.

Conclude:

"TELL" is a verb. Verb means a doing word or action.

When you tell, you give other people information. By us telling each other the facts in the game we could work out the answer. God wants us to tell people about Him so that they too know the answers about Him.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

You will need coloured eggs for this lesson:

- Either find plastic, real or white Easter eggs and paint them or
- Find the plastic ones that open and hide the colours and scriptures inside or
- Print the coloured templates found in the media pack.

BIBLE DETECTIVES GET READY!

Bible detectives I need your help there are 6 very important eggs hidden. Please can you work together and go and find them and bring them back here so that we can solve the mystery of Easter.

We have used the colours before to tell the salvations story so start by finding out if the detectives remember what each colour means.

So detectives I see that you have all found 6 different coloured eggs. Come let's put them up over here.

Who knows what we are celebrating today?

Yes that's right it's Easter. I am sure that there is a message that we can learn from these colourful eggs. (pick up each egg as you explain the message of Easter)

Does anyone know why there is a yellow egg?

That's right it represents Heaven. Remember in the beginning of the Bible in Genesis 1:1 God says, "In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth."

Isn't it exciting to know God, who created everything, created us in His image AND He, the God of EVERYTHING created us to have a relationship with US!

HEAVEN

But then what happened?



Man **sinned**.

Romans 2:23 tells us that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

Because God is Holy (that means perfect with no sin) sin cannot be in His presence. So our sin separates us from being with God.

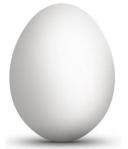


JESUS' BLOOD WAS SHED

But is that the end? NO!

What does the red egg remind us? It reminds us of what we are celebrating this weekend. Jesus who is perfect, with no sin, God's own son, came down to Earth to die and to take on our sin. (cover the black one with the red one)

John 3:16 God so loved us, that He sent His son Jesus.



MADE PURE BEFORE GOD

Jesus's death and resurrection (remember Jesus didn't stay dead in fact He is still alive today!) means that if we ask Him into our hearts then we can have a relationship with Him.

1 John 1:19 says that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us from all unrighteousness. AMAZING!



HOLY SPIRIT

Do you know what is also amazing. God sends someone to Earth to be our helper. The Holy Spirit. It's the Holy Spirit that fills us. He gives us boldness so that we can tell others about Him.

Isaiah 61 tells us how the Holy Spirit gives us power to see people being healed and set free.



GROW

But wait there is still one more egg! Is there more to the Easter story than just our sins being taken away by Jesus? Yes!

We need to tell it to others!

Jesus wants more and more people to believe in Him so that they can be forgiven too!

Spend time reading the Bible, praying, worshipping and getting to know Jesus better and as you do you will grow closer to Him. And then TELL everything you learn or experience and how others will grow too.

Let's look at 1 Chronicles 16:8-25

How many times does it say the word "TELL"? (1 Chronicles 16:8-25) 5 times

What must we tell?

- (1 Chronicles 16:8) <u>Tell the nations about what He has done.</u>
- (1 Chronicles 16:9) Tell about the amazing things God has done.
- (1 Chronicles 16:23) Tell the good news everyday about how He saves us.
- (1 Chronicles 16:24) Tell the nations how wonderful He is
- (1 Chronicles 16:25) Tell people everywhere about the amazing things He does.

And why do we tell others?

(refer to the eggs) We know how amazing Jesus is and what He has done for us and we listen to His command to TELL OTHERS

And when we do this (*hold up green one*) others will know and love Jesus too! And wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone kept TELLING others how great and worthy the Lord is of our praise.

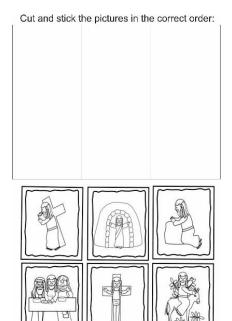
4) Bible Detective Take Home Question

a) Learn the verse 1 Chronicles 16:23 and be ready to say it next week Tell the good news every day about how Jesus saves us

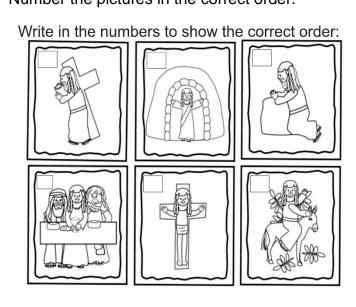
5) Craft

These can be done separately or made into a booklet that they can do the rest at home. If the children join the main service for Easter Sunday you can have these available to keep them busy.

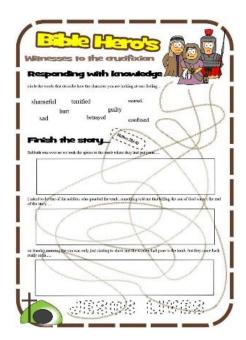
Option 1: Cut and stick the pictures in the correct order



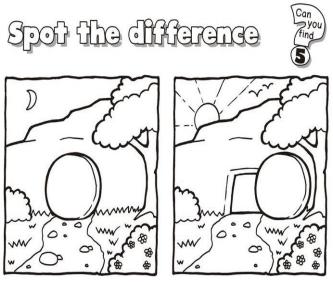
Option 2: Number the pictures in the correct order.



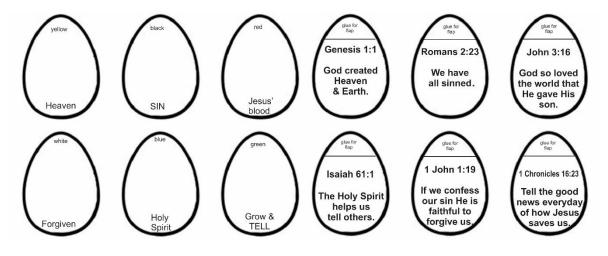
Option 3: Activity Page



Option 4: Spot the difference



Option 5: Colour and cut out the eggs to flap over the matching Bible verse to use to retell the Easter Story of salvation.



Lesson Four: Worthy of our praise (One Sunday)

Main focus for the lesson:

- We praise and do all the actions we are learning about this term as a response to the revelation of how GREAT God is.
- Reading the Bible helps us learn about how great and worthy God is of our worship.

1) Memory Verse

• 1 Chronicles 16:25

"The Lord is great and worthy of praise."

Idea to teach the memory verse:

Get the children to find a partner and ask them the following questions and listen for their answer:

- What is your favourite colour?.
- O What colour is your toothbrush?
- Do you have any pets? Etc.

Then say: The Bible tells us that "The Lord is great and worthy of praise." He is GREAT because He is the only one that can take away our sins, He made us, He protects us, He loves us no matter what and He is the King of all Kings. And what is super exciting is that this amazing and powerful creator that we serve cares about you so much that He wants to have a personal relationship with you.

CLUE TIME: What do the following 3 verses (*Ps 66:19; 1 Peter 3:12; Jeremiah 29:12*) tell us God does? *He hears our prayers*

God wants us to talk to Him when we're sad, when we're happy, when we're scared. He wants us to tell Him all our secrets. Just like we spoke to our friends earlier, God wants us to talk to Him like that. He wants to be our friend. But remember we also need to listen to Him. (use the string telephone to demonstrate that sometimes we need to listen and not only talk/ask for things)

Let's think of few things in our lives that truly show how great God is and how He is worthy of our praise.

Give each pair a string-telephone. They will take turns where one will listen and the other will reply by saying the verse.



E.g. I love God because He takes away my sins.... Everyone on the other side replies "Great is the Lord and worthy of praise"

- God healed my granny..."Great is the Lord and worthy of praise"
- God created me... "Great is the Lord and worthy of praise"
- God is big and powerful... "Great is the Lord and worthy of praise"

Have some tin can telephones ready-made. (Plastic disposable cups work just as well and they're safer)

2) Hands on

2.1) Skit: We praise as an obvious response when we recognise who God is. Leader 1 (Leader 1 rushes around doing push ups, then lifting weights, twirling, doing some ballet moves, all while singing scales) Leader 2 Hi Leader 1. What are you doing? Leader 1 Well duh I am getting ready to worship of course! Leader 2 You are? Leader 1 (stumbling and over exaggerate) Well I'm practicing, watch. First you lift your arm no no it's lift both arms, then you close your eyes and then you have to step right first then left or is it left then right um — I always get that mixed up and then cross your legs and do a spin kinda turn thing oh yes and then you've got to sing all the wordsoh no I've forgotten the words!!! Man! I'm never gonna get this. Leader 2 Don't worry Leader 1. That's not how you worship. Leader 1 It's not? Leader 2 Worshipping God isn't just singing, dancing and playing music. It's so much more than that. Do you want me to teach you a super important lesson about worship? Leader 1 I sure do! Would you, would you please? Leader 2 Okay, so stand up straight and look forward. Leader 1 Stand up straight and look forward. I can do that Leader 2 (sneaking up quietly behind him give Leader 1 a big fright) BOO Leader 1 (overreact to the fright throwing hands up ,jump, bend over, catch breath etc) AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH
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etc) AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH. Phew Leader 2 you gave me a fright! Leader 2 Perfect! Now do you understand what worship is all about? Leader 1 (scratching head) Uhhh, no?
Leader 2 Perfect! Now do you understand what worship is all about? Leader 1 (scratching head) Uhhh, no?
Leader 2 Well what happened when I gave you a fright?
Leader 1 (reenact what happened as you talk) All of sudden I shouted, I jumped, I
threw my arms up, I bent over – I couldn't stop myself it just happened. It
was a natural reaction.
Leader 2 Exactly. Worship just happens! When we focus on who God is and all that
He has done we can't stop ourselves – we want to sing and shout about
how amazing He is and jump up and down. It's a natural reaction.
We worship God because He is so worthy.
Leader 1 Oh God is so worthy. God is so great. I love Him so much. And like the Bible
says He's is my king, my creator, my everything!
I LOVE YOU GOD!
Leader 2 Excellent Leader 1! Now you're worshipping God!
Leader 1 I am? If worship is just my reaction to how Great God is – than that's super
easy! I'm so excited – I'm going to worship Him all the time.

3) Bible Story + Lesson: GREAT IS THE LORD AND WORTHY OF PRAISE

Set up stations and let the groups move around to each to discover the truths found in the Bible that tell us how great God is. Each station will have a picture for them to collect with three verses on the back. (see media pack) The children will read/listen to the verse and try and work out what the common word/theme is in all of them. They will then take part in the activity until it is time to move around to the next station.

BIBLE DETECTIVES GET READY!

Today we are going to discover how GREAT God is and see just how worthy He is of praise. Let's use the Bible to see how Great He is!

Station One: GOD HEARS MY PRAYERS (see 1.) memory verse activity)

Station Two: GOD ALWAYS LOVES ME

CLUE TIME: Read the three verses and see if they can work out the common word "UNFAILING LOVE" (*Psalm 36:5; Psalm 66:20; Psalm 138:2*)



- Give each child a pipe cleaner and 12 fruit loops.
- Bend the pipe cleaner so that it looks like a heart.
- Read out the statements to the kids on the cards and have them add a fruit loop to the pipe cleaner after each true statement.
- If this statement is true add a fruit loop to your pipe cleaner: (Remember to say for certain ones that although God doesn't like or tolerate our sins/bad behaviour it doesn't change the fact that he **ALWAYS** loves us unconditionally).
- o God loves me when I sing worship songs to Him?
- God showed His love to me when He sent Jesus to die for me and forgive my sins?
- o God loves me if I forgot to pray before I sleep?
- o God loves me if I don't come to church every week?
- o God loves me if talk to Him when I'm alone?
- God loves me when I tell people about Him.
- o God loves me when I thank Him for what He's done?
- o God loves me when I'm sleeping?
- God loves me when I'm at school?
- o God loves me when I enjoy His creation?
- God loves me when I tell lies?
- God loves me when I don't listen to mom/dad?

Conclude: No matter where we are or what situations we're in God loves us unconditionally.

Station Three: GOD IS MY SHIELD

Leaders spray kids with small water guns while kids run around trying not to get wet. Leaders hand out a few shields and tell kids to try not to get wet. Obviously the small shields won't be effective.

CLUE TIME: What word do the three verses have in common? (*Psalm 3:3; Psalm 5:12;Psalm 7:10*) GOD IS OUR SHIELD. We worship God because He protects us!

Two leaders bring out a big waterproof piece of material with God written on it. Now the kids will be able to ALL fit behind one big protector and not get wet! After all the excitement, leaders explain that the small plastic shields weren't very effective at keeping us from getting wet. In the same way, the things of this World cannot fully protect us. But our God can!

Station Four: GOD IS MY KING

CLUE TIME: Read the verses Psalm 24:10; Psalm 47:2; Psalm 47:6-7 for the children to find the common word KING

Have the following items set out on the table.

- A crown
- A cloak
- A sash
- A sceptre
- A bucket
- Soap
- Towel





Kids decide which items a king would use to serve his people? The bucket, soap and towels obviously wouldn't be chosen. Leader then explains that today the Bible taught us that Jesus is the King of all! Yet while this King was on Earth He wasn't treated how we would expect a king to be treated. In fact He even washed His disciple's feet! Jesus the King of all kings even served us by dying on the cross for our sins. Now that is a King worth worshipping!

Station Five: GOD IS MY CREATOR WHO MADE ALL THINGS

CLUE TIME: Read the verses Psalm 104:24; Psalm 139:13; Psalm 146:6 for the children to find the common word MADE.

Show them a salt dough model of something you "made" e.g. a bird. Compare that although my model isn't too bad it is nothing like a real bird, it can't fly, sing, lay eggs. Ask who is the greatest creator of all? GOD! Yes, God is the creator of all things and the creator of YOU! WOW! Just look around you. He is definitely worthy of our worship!

Let the children use salt dough, beads, noodles, spaghetti to make their own creation. Have the memory verse written on the paper plate that they will take their creation home on.

CLUE TIME BIBLE VERSES (NLT)

Unfailing love		
Psalm 36:5	Your unfailing love , O LORD, is as vast as the heavens;	
Psalm 66:20	Praise God, who did not ignore my prayer or withdraw his unfailing love from me.	
Psalm 138:2	I praise your name for your unfailing love and faithfulness	
King of everything		
Psalm 24:10	Who is the King of glory? The LORD of Heaven's Armies— He is the King of glory	
Psalm 47:1	For the LORD Most High is awesome. He is the great King of all the earth.	
Psalm 47: 6-7	6-7 Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King , sing praises!	

i rotecting sinera		
Psalm 3:3	But you, O LORD, are a shield around me;	
Psalm 5:12	you surround them with your shield of love	
Psalm 7:10	God is my shield , saving those whose hearts are true and right.	
Creator who made		
all things		
Psalm 104:24	O LORD, what a variety of things you have made ! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your	
Psalm 139:13	You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit	
	me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!	
Psalm 146:6	He made heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them	
Hears all prayers	ars all prayers	
Psalm 66:19	But God did listen to me; He heard my prayer.	
1 Peter 3:12	The Lord watches over those who do what is right, and he listens to their prayers.	
Jeremiah 29:12	remiah 29:12 Then you will call my name. You will come to me and pray to me, and I will listen to you.	

4) Bible Detective Take Home Question

a) Find any verse about God that you think is worth worshipping Him for.

5) Craft

Option 1: Heart of worship

Protecting shield

Remind the children that worship comes from the heart. When we spend time with God and learn about Him from the Bible it's like filling our hearts with things we can worship Him about.

- 1) Cut out the heart template and stick it to the back of a paper plate
- Cut a flap through both the heart and paper plate
- 3) Now staple another paper plate with the back showing. It must form a little pocket.
- 4) As the children learn about God give them a picture to fill their heart.
- 5) Get them to all say the memory verse ...

 Great is the Lord and worthy to be praise because ... Let them pull out a card and try remember what they have learnt about God.



Lesson Five: SING PRAISES TO THE LORD

Main focus for the lesson:

- Singing songs of praise is a command from the Lord
- Singing praise and worship songs helps unite us as the body of Christ
- Why do we sing to the Lord? Because:
 - 1 Chronicles 16:25 Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise!

1) Memory Verse

Psalm 98:4

Shout to the Lord, all the Earth, break out in praise and sing for joy!

Idea to teach the memory verse

Do actions for each part of the verse:

Shout to the Lord: Put hands next to mouth and actually shout the word "shout"

All the Earth: Make big arches with your arms

Break out in praise: Sway arms from side to side as if praising in church And sing for joy: Link arms with someone and turn around in a circle.

Repeat again only the next time link arms with a different person.

2) Hands on

Perform the following game: Could be done on arrival, in free-time

- 2.1) Organise the children into groups of 3 or 4 and let them choose a favourite praise and worship song to sing to the other children.
- 2.2) Organise the children into groups of 3 or 4. Give each group a random song title. The groups must come up with a song and sing it to the rest of the group, in any style of music they choose.

Examples of song titles you could use:

Lord, you are my safe place!

I will always praise you, Jesus!

Bigger, Stronger, He can! Yes, He can!

Nothing can separate me from my Jesus!

Wow! Let me tell you what my Jesus did!

No way! No how! Never giving up my Jesus!

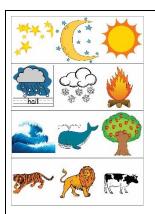
He is in my heart forever!

You don't need to be perfect to follow Jesus!

2.3) Arrange for a praise and worship leader from your site to come and share with the children their testimonies, views and passions about Worship. Hopefully they are able to bring an instrument or song that they have written to inspire the children.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

Let me give you an AMAZING fact: **SINGING IS MENTIONED 400 TIMES IN THE BIBLE! AND DIRECTLY COMMANDED 50 TIMES!!**How incredible is that? 400 times!! If it's mentioned so many times surely there must be something important about it



Hand out the nature and creation pictures so that everyone has a different one.

First get them to look at their picture and see if anyone has something in common as theirs.

Next tell them that **every picture** has the same thing in common. Can they work out what it is?

Remember to collect them so they're not a distraction when you start your discussion.



BIBLE DETECTIVES GET READY!

I am going to read to you Psalm 148 and I want you to listen carefully and see if

- 1) I mention your picture and
- 2) if you can work out what they all have in common.

Psalm 148:3-13 (Note: not all verses have been included)

³ Sun and moon, praise Him! Stars and lights in the sky, praise Him! ⁴ Praise Him, highest heaven! Waters above the sky, praise Him! ⁵Let them praise the LORD's name, because He gave the command and created them all! ⁷ Everything on Earth, praise Him! Great sea animals and all the oceans, praise the LORD! ⁸ Praise Him, fire and hail, snow and clouds, and the stormy winds that obey Him. ⁹Praise Him, mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedar trees. ¹⁰ Praise Him, wild animals and cattle, reptiles and birds. 11 Praise Him, kings of the earth and all nations, princes and all rulers on earth. ¹² Praise Him, young men and women, old people and children. ¹³ Praise the LORD's name! Honor His name forever! His name is greater than any other.

So, was yours mentioned? (Yes. Help them find the verse if they missed theirs)
Can you work out what they all have in common? (EVERYTHING MUST PRAISE THE LORD!)

Now look around at everyone in room. What do you all have in common? (You must also all praise the Lord)

Stick the letter "N" up. After listening to this verse do you think that nature

should praise God?

What things in nature should praise God? (Psalm 149:7) Everything

Do you think you should praise God? (Psalm 149:12) YES! Everyowe

Why should everything and everyone praise God? (Psalm 149:5)

Because He created them and because He commanded them.

Stick the letter "O" up before the "N"

Singing praise and worship songs is an act of obedience to something God has instructed us as believers to do. In fact, in the Bible there are fifty times where we as believers are told to sing.

Psalm 105:2 Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts.

Obey

And why would we obey this command? (1 Chronicles 16:25) Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.

Stick the letter "G" up after the "N"

GOD deserves the Glory

Singing to the Lord is an act of love for our heavenly Father! It is a reaction to how much He loves us. David knew how much God loved him and his response to this love was an outpouring of songs and poems.

God loves hearing His people sing to Him about all the wonderful things He has done. And do you know that it's not about the words being perfect or your voice being perfect or the band being perfect, it's about the heart of the

person singing the song. If your heart is singing because you love the Lord then to God it will sound perfect!

Singing to the Lord can be a special time that you spend with God. A time when He can fill you with His Holy Spirit. A special time when the words of the gospel can to take root in our hearts. And even a time when He can make you stronger.

Stick the letter "S" up before the "O"

The Bible tells us that singing praises to God can make us stronger. It unites us as one body, the body of Christ. When all our voices are united singing the same words to a song, we are declaring publicly who we are and what we believe.

2 Chronicles 20 tells the story of how the army of the Lord had to face terrible enemies in a battle. King Jehoshaphat appointed a clan of singers to lead the army into battle by singing praise to God! Imagine seeing that? An army marching into battle led by a choir! It sounds crazy but that was what the Lord told King Jehoshaphat to do. So they marched off singing at the top of their lungs and do you know what happened? The enemies started fighting among themselves until they were all defeated and God's army didn't have to lift a sword!

The song of thanks and praise for God was their weapon and it can be ours too. We can also sing when we are facing a battle in our lives. Singing a song about God's goodness can help us feel joy and strength when we are having a tough time too because it helps us focus on what God can do!

So when you put this all together what do you get?



Psalm 98:1 Says

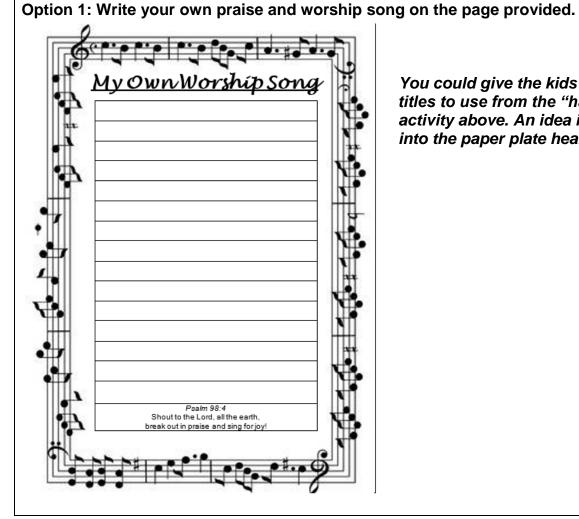
¹Sing a new song to the Lord, for He has done wonderful deeds. His right hand has won a mighty victory; His holy arm has shown his saving power!

And that is just what God wants us to do .. to sing a new song to Him. One written from our hearts just to Him!

4) Bible detective questions:

a) If people keep quiet who did Jesus say will call out? (Luke 19:40) (rocks/stones)

5) Craft



You could give the kids the same titles to use from the "hands-on" activity above. An idea is to put this into the paper plate heart.

Option 2: Use paper cups and some fillings to make a shaker to use while you sing praise and worship songs. Remember to write/stick the memory verse onto their craft.



Option 3: Make and decorate your own microphone so you can give a shout of praise. Paint or cover toilet rolls in coloured paper. Roll foil into balls and stick onto one end of the toilet roll. Let the kids use sticker to decorate. Remember to stick the memory verse onto their craft.



Psalm 98:4
Shout to the Lord, all the earth, break out in praise and sing for joy!

Option 4: "I have a song in my heart" craft

Fold and cut a paper into a heart. Cut it into two separate pieces.



Tape a piece of blank paper in behind the two halves of the heart.

Now write a few lines of your favourite worship song onto the paper.

And fold the paper so that the heart is back together.





Lesson Six: BE PROUD OF THE NAME OF THE LORD!

Main focus for the lesson:

- We must boast about the amazing things God has done, not our own accomplishments.
- We must be proud of how much God loves us and tell people about His love for them too.
- Our Salvation is because of what Jesus did for us not because of what we do for Him.

1) Memory Verse

1 Corinthians 1:31

Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord."

Idea to teach the memory verse

Practice saying the verse a few times.

Next each leader has a chance to shout out a boast. The kids respond by saying the verse and pointing their fingers.

Leader: "I got 10 out of 10 for my test, na-na-na-na-na!"

Kids: (pointing their fingers) "as the Scriptures say, If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord!"

Leader: "I came first in the gala, na-na-na-na!"

Kids: (pointing their fingers) "as the Scriptures say, If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord!"

Leader: "I'm the handsomest guy in the class, na-na-na-na-na!"

Kids: (pointing their fingers) "as the Scriptures say, If you want to boast, boast only about the Lord!"

2) Hands on

Two leaders have a conversation. Make sure you have all the t-shirts and fan stuff available to you. Use what you already have.

Leader 1 (comes in wearing a T-shirt, scarf, hat etc of a sports team they love		
	singing a made up team song- try choose teams that your kids will	
	recognise)	
	Whooop whoooop!! I'm "THE LIONS" biggest fan!!	
Leader 2	Oh shame, your team lost the big game last night, but good to see you're still	
	supporting them even when things are tough.	
Leader 1	(looks shocked and embarrassed and starts removing the fan items.)	
	Uhh, I didn't know that Do you maybe knows which team won?	
Leader 2	It was "THE BLUE BULLS"	
Leader 1	rummages around in a bag and finds a BLUE BULLS T-shirt and starts	
	singing their team song.	
Leader 2	How can you just change your loyalty to your team like that?	
Leader 1	Seriously! Everyone else will be boasting about THE BLUE BULLS. I mean	
	don't get me wrong THE LIONS are a great team! Maybe when less people	
	will mock and laugh at me I'll start wearing my LIONS shirt again – but not	
	until then! Anyway, what does your shirt say? What team do you support?	
Leader 2	Proudly shows off his t-shirt. It says: "I'm a child of God"	
Leader 1	Cover it up, we're not at church. What if someone mocks you for wearing it?	
	What if you aren't allowed to do stuff because you're wearing it?	
Leader 2	It doesn't matter, I'm not ashamed of who I am and what God has done for	
	me! I want everyone to know!	
Leader 1	You're not?!	

Leader 2 Come let me tell you about God. When you hear about how great He is and what He's done for you – I'm certain you'll be proud to boast about Him too!

3) Bible Story + Lesson



Watch the following video and then perform the skit: https://youtu.be/7zLAcUZkxHA God's Story: David and Goliath (Full Version)

This skit is to be performed by two leaders. One takes the role of a reporter and the other who takes the role of David. David must always be humble and point the focus to what God did not what he did. Dress up and use props to make it more effective.



Reporter	,	
	witnesses has just killed a 9-foot giant called Goliath.	
	(Turns to David) Wow, David, that's quite an achievement, how are you feeling?	
David	Hi everyone! I'm feeling fine thank you. I'm feeling so grateful to God for being	
	with me.	
Reporter	Reporter So David, can you tell our viewers what made a boy like you step up and fa	
	the giant Goliath when no one else would?	
David	David Well, it's quite simple. I had heard that this guy was challenging our people's	
	army and I knew that my God would help me and be with me.	
Reporter	So are you a soldier in the army?	
David NO! Not at all! I'm actually a shepherd who writes songs and poems to God		
	while I'm watching sheep all day.	
Reporter	But surely you've had some special combat training? I mean to kill a giant	
David	Well, there were a few incidents where a bear and a lion attacked my sheep	
	and God helped me fend off the attacks. Could you call that special training?	
Reporter	(Looks baffled) Okay but did you have a set of strong armour that enabled you	
	to kill this giant?	
David	The king did give me his own shield and sword but yoh! It was heavy so I left it	
	behind. God told me to go to the river and fetch a couple of stones	
Reporter	(Interrupts) Wait, wait, wait! Are you telling me that a skinny kid like you who	
	watches you father's sheep and sings songs to God all day, faced and killed a	
	9-foot tall giant with a stone??? (Shaking his head in disbelief)	
David	Yes! That's what happened BUT it wasn't just me, I wasn't on my own! MY	
	GOD was with me every step of the way!	
Reporter	Well there you have it everyone! A little shepherd boy with a bag full of stones	
	and a heart full of God defeated a giant! I for one can't wait to see what he	
	does with the rest of his life!	
	Back to the studio.	

Wasn't that an amazing story? That boy David was so humble!

James 1:17 says this

"Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father"

David knew that everything good in his life was given to him by the Lord and he honoured God all throughout his life. Let's look up scriptures where David boasts about God.

BIBLE DETECTIVES GET READY!

Come on bible detectives, let's look up and read Psalm 103, written by David, out loud. (You can let the older kids take turns reading a couple of verses each of the passage.)

Name the kind things God does for us? (Psalm 103:3-5)

He forgives my sins, He heals diseases, He saves me, He loves me and He

fills my life with good things.

What will God NOT do? (Psalm 103:9-10) He won't stay angry with us and He won't give us the punishment we deserve.

How long will God love you for? (Psalm 103:17) FOREVER!

Are these things about God true? YES!

Do you think God is worth boasting about? YES!

David knew just how wonderful God is and loved Him so so much! And so he gave God the glory for everything and because of that 1 Samuel 18:14 says that "David continued to succeed in everything he did, for the Lord was with him."

Making God the most important is the only way we succeed. Making it all about us is when we set ourselves up to fail.

WHO ARE YOU BOASTING ABOUT?

How do you act when you do well on a test or win a trophy? Who do you brag and boast on and on about? Who do you give glory to? And do you act the same way when you come fourth or fifth? OR EVEN LAST?

WILL YOU BOAST NO MATTER WHAT?





Imagine you are David and you know God has just helped you kill a giant! Do you think it would be easy to boast to everyone how great God is? I think so.

(have these pictures back to back – when things went well for David – He boasted about the God)

BUT life wasn't always easy for David, in fact King Saul was so jealous of David that he tried for years to have David killed. David even had to live hidden in a cave just to keep safe. Now imagine you're David but this time you're hiding from armies that are hunting you down even in the middle of the night. Do you think you would be boasting about how great God is? Not so easy is it? In Psalm 59 David talks about his enemies as "snarling vicious dogs" but in the very same psalm David says:

But I will sing about Your strength.
I will rejoice in Your love every morning.
You have been my place of safety,
the place I can run to when troubles come.



David still kept boasting about how great, strong and loving God is!

(have these pictures back to back – when things were difficult and tough for David – He still boasted about the God)

It's easy to give God the glory when your life is going well. But it's just as important to keep boasting about God when things in our lives are difficult. Whether you feel God is helping you overcome giants or whether it feels like God is putting you in a place where it feels like armies are out to get you. Remember that although your situation may be different ... God has not changed! He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow! (Hebrews 13:8)

We must not be like the sports fan who takes off his team shirt when things aren't going the way he wanted. We must boast about God ALWAYS because... 1 Chronicles 16:25 says

GREAT IS THE LORD AND MOST WORHTY OF PRAISE!

4) Bible Detective Take Home Questions

a) David says it is good to boast about your <u>w</u> because ... (2 Corinthians 12:9-10) (weaknesses, when we are weak He is strong)

5) Craft

Option 1: Foam pointing hand

Use two pieces of foam or cardboard cut into this shape. Stick the edges together but leave an opening so that your hand can fit inside it.

Option 2: Make a banner for the class

Use a big piece of cardboard to hang in the classroom. On it you can write "We give God all the glory!" and everyone puts their name on it or a hand print.



T'ra gorna give good the glory!

Option 3: Make a sash to wear

Use plain strips of paper (till rolls will work well) to make a sash for each child.

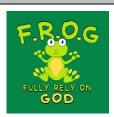
Let each one choose their own title to write onto their sash with a black marker. It could say "I'm a child of God!"



Lesson Seven: ALWAYS GO TO HIM FOR HELP

Main focus for the lesson:

- We need to rely/depend on God's strength, because the things of this World will not sustain us.
- God is always with us, no matter the situations we're in.



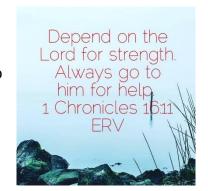
1) Memory Verse

1 Chronicles 16:11

"Depend on the Lord for strength. Always go to Him for help."

Idea to teach the memory verse

- Use the following picture of the verse provided in the media pack.
- Cut it into puzzle pieces
 (Number and size will depend on how difficult you want to make the puzzle).
- Before they start ask the children if they can see what it says or what the picture is of. (no)
- Have the children build the puzzle and stick it on another piece of paper/cardboard so that it can be referred to later. (see hands on)



Conclude: Even if we don't see or understand the bigger picture, God knows and we therefore need to trust Him that it will all work out in the end.

Actions and repetition help with learning:

Depend on	The Lord	For strength
(pretend to lean back on)	(point up)	(muscle pose)
Always go	To Him	For help
(run on spot)	(point up)	(wave hands like drowning)

2) Hands on

2.1) Reuse the concepts from this skit/object lesson in the Bible story lesson.

Prepare a big bag filled with:

- Money/Piggy bank (Fake money/ monopoly money can also be used)
- A mirror
- Balloons (That have been blown up)
- Photo (of friends and or family)
- Car Keys/ House keys
- Frog (Plastic/craft option)

Leader 1	(Refer to the Memory verse puzzle conclusion and repeat the verse and actions with the children a few times)
Leader 2	(Leader 2 bursts in carrying a very big and "heavy" bag)

	Hi guys sorry I'm late. What are we talking about?
Leader 1	Well I was just telling the kids here how when we're stuck in a difficult situation we can rely on(gets interrupted by leader 2)
Leader 2	What? No way! (very excited) In this bag here with me I've got all the things that I rely on when I'm in a difficult situation. Look, look I'll show you. (scratch around and pull out money/piggy bank) Money! You can always depend on money to help you when things are difficult. Right?
Leader 1	Well money can run out and besides the Bible tells us in 1 Chronicles 16:11 uhmm can you guys help me out with the memory verse again. "Depend on the Lord for strength. Always go to Him for help."
Leader 2	That sounds nice But look I've got something else in my bag. (Scratch around and pull out a mirror. Stare at your reflection). There we go I've got it. Myself! I can always depend on myself. (Pull inflated balloons out of the bag. shove the balloons under your shirt to create "muscles") And if I work out at the gym I'll get strong and I can take care of any problem I might have (Punch your fist into your other hand, imitating the possibility of hitting someone). Right?
Leader 1	Sometimes you can make mistakes though. Don't you think it would be better to depend on someone who doesn't make any mistakes?
Leader 2	(Quickly pull a photo of friends and or family out of the bag) What about my friends/family they never make any mistakes. I could depend on them right?
Leader 1	The Bible tells us that as humans we all make mistakes, but God is perfect. He never breaks a promise or makes mistakes so I think we should depend on Him. (<i>Turn and ask the kids the question</i>) What did 1 Chronicles 16:11 teach us? "Depend on the Lord for strength. Always go to Him for help."
Leader 2	(Scratch around in the bag) Wait I've got something else in here. Ah ha! (pull out car keys/house keys). All the stuff I own, like my car, my house I can depend on that because they take care of me. My car gets me to where I need to go and my house protects me at night. Surely I can depend on them. Right? (Start to look worried, because you're running out of options in your bag and haven't really been listening to the memory verse).
Leader 1	Well it's possible for your car to break down or for your house to get damaged. Wouldn't you want to depend on something, or rather someone that will never break down, but always stand firm? (Turn to the kids) What do you say guys? Who should we depend on? "1 Chronicles 16:11 - Depend on the Lord for strength. Always go to Him for help." Leader 2 I would like to give you something that is going to remind you of who you should rely on. (Pull out a plastic/craft frog, but be sure the kids haven't seen it beforehand)
Leader 2	A frog? You want me to depend on a fake frog? If I kiss it will it turn into a prince?

Leader 1	Haha no I want you to F.R.O.G - Fully Rely On God. No matter what situation or problem you are in you can always depend on God to give you the wisdom and strength to go through it and the best part is that He will also be with you and guide you.
Leader 2	Wow thanks leader 1. That has helped me a lot. Now every time I look at my frog I'll remember to F.R.O.G - Fully Rely on God.

3) Bible Story + Lesson: Daniel relies on God (Daniel 1)

In the Old Testament, in the book of Daniel, we find the story of 4 friends. Their names were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. About 605 years before Jesus came to Earth something really bad happened to Daniel and his friends.

The king of Babylon, king Nebuchadnezzar, invaded Jerusalem and captured these young boys. He took them to his palace where they had to learn to read, write and speak a new language and later on become the king's servants.

The king ordered that the young boys ate certain foods and wine every day. This was the same food that the king ate. Daniel and his friends did not want to eat the king's food because it would make them "unclean".

To be "unclean" didn't mean dirty - like having food all over their face. In simple terms if something was "unclean" it meant it was unfit to use in worship of God. The book of Leviticus tells us of the Jewish rules about foods that could not be eaten, actions that would make a person unclean and what people needed to do to become "clean" or fit to worship God again.

We don't know what food the king was giving to Daniel and his friends but we do know that they didn't want to eat and drink it because they wanted to obey God and be able to worship Him without fault.

Remember that Daniel and his friends had been captured as servants, they weren't really in a place to complain about the food! They had a tough choice to make – eat the kings food and disappoint God or don't eat the kings food and get in trouble with the king?

(Take out the bag used in the "hands on" section)

What should they do?

(Fake money) Do you think they should pay the guard to give them different food? (Mirror) Do you think they should just think about themselves and not God and just eat the food?

(Picture of friends) Do you think they should ask the other servants what they should do? (FROG) Ah what did 1 Chronicles 16:11 teach us we should do in difficult situations? 1 Chronicles 16:11 - Depend on the Lord for strength. Always go to Him for help."

BIBLE DETECTIVES GET READY! Read Daniel 1:8 – 17 to find out what happened next:

What did Daniel and his friends do? (Daniel 1:8) They asked Ashpenaz, the official in charge not to be made unclean in this way

What did God do? (Daniel 1:9) God caused the official to be kind and loyal to Daniel

What did the official say? (Daniel 1:10) I'm afraid the king will be angry when you start to become weak.

What did Daniel and his friends do next? (Daniel 1:12) They asked to please test them on only water and vegetables for 10 days

What did the official say? (Daniel 1:14) He agreed

What did God do? (Daniel 1:15;17) God made them healthier, with more wisdom, able to learn more and even understand vision and dreams.

Do you think Daniel and his friends acted like a F.R.O.G? Yes They FULLY RELIED ON GOD!

Well done Bible detectives - Today you discovered in the Bible that Daniel and his friends understood that they didn't need to rely on anyone or anything, but rather that they only needed God to make them strong.

And we can and should do exactly the same thing – remember our verse from today ... "Depend on the Lord for strength. Always go to Him for help."

The next time you are in a tough situation who are you going to rely on? (God)

4)Bible detective Take Home Questions:

Read John 14:16 to discover the answers:

Who has God given us as a helper? (*Holy Spirit*) How long do we have the helper for? (*forever*)

Extra John 14:26

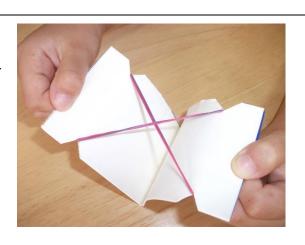
How will this helper help us? (teach you all things, remind you what Jesus has taught you)

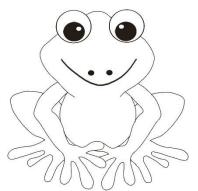
5) Craft

Option 1: Jumping Frog

- Fold a piece of cardboard in half (Video suggests that you stick the 2 pieces together with tape, but it's not necessary if you fold it)
- Cut a small triangle shape out from either side of the cardboard, quite high up to the top.
- Unfold the cardboard
- Stick a Frog picture template on the 1 side (top side).
- Write the memory verse and F.R.O.G Fully Relying on God on the other side (bottom side).
- Twist the rubber band/ make a knot in the middle of the band.
- Hook the band into the grooves that were cut out, as show in the picture so that it goes over the frog picture (top side).
- Pull the 2 sides together to create tension on the rubber band.
- Let go and watch the frog "jump"







Option 2: Make a paper plate frog

Give the frog a long red paper tongue with the memory verse written on it or F.R.O.G - Fully Relying on God



Option 3: Colouring in Page



Lesson Eight: Remember His miracles

Main focus for the lesson:

- God wants us to **remember** the amazing things He has done.
- Nothing is too hard for God to do.

1) Memory Verse

• 1 Chronicles 16:12

Remember the amazing things He has done.

Remember His miracles and His fair decisions.

Idea to teach the memory verse

Do the 'hands on' section before teaching the memory verse.

After doing the string object lesson, tell the children that we are going to use the string/ribbon to help us remember our memory verse for this week.

Give each child a small piece of string/ribbon that has been tied into a bow.

Remember: Hold up the piece of ribbon/string

the amazing things: move your hands in the shape of a globe

that God: point to Heaven has done: Give a thumbs up

remember: Hold up the piece of ribbon/string

His miracles: Cover eyes with hands then open your hands (as though blind eyes have

been opened)

and fair decisions: put left then right palm up, looking at each as if trying to make a

decision

2) Hands on

•				
2.1) A String to Remember				
Items needed: a piece of string/ribbon long enough to tie around your finger				
Leader 1	Leader one comes in all excited while Leader 2 is on the side acting worried - pacing, holding his head, biting his nails, making worried noises etc.)			
	Good morning everybody!			
	It's so wonderful to see you all again this week!			
	Today we are going to worship, and learn about Who's making those			
	noises?			
	Hello Leader 2 what's wrong?			
Leader 2	I am having a really hard time trying to remember something important that I was meant to tell the children! I know it was something important, but I can't remember what it was!!!			
Leader 1	Don't worry, Leader 2. I have an idea. We can use this			
	to help you remember things. (Pull a piece of string/ribbon out of your pocket and			
	hold it in the air) There's an old-fashioned custom that said to tie a string			
	around your finger to help you remember something. The idea is that you will			
	notice that string on your finger and it will remind you of the important thing			
	you wanted to remember! Sounds simple, doesn't it?			
1 1	Let's give it a try.			

Leader 2	(holds up their finger but it already has a ribbon around it and when they see			
	the ribbon they say)			
	THAT REMINDS ME!			
	I have brought a piece of string/ ribbon for all the children so that they could			
	remember what we are learning about this week!			
Leader 1	And can you remember what it is?			
Leader 2	We need to remember! We must remember the amazing things God has done and we must remember His miracles and all His fair decisions.			
Leader 1	Excellent Leader 2!			
	God wants us to remember the amazing things that He has done, and to remember the miracles He has done and his fair decisions.			
	To help us remember these things He has given us something even better than a piece of string/ribbon do you know what that is? (hold up Bible)			
	Yes, God has given us the Bible as a reminder of who He is and how much He loves us. It has all kinds of wonderful stories that remind us of how God can help us when we get into trouble or have a problem.			
	A string/ribbon is a good reminder, but your Bible is an even better reminder. Let's not forget to look at it.			
Leader 2	Why don't we look at it right now and learn a verse from it. We can use our			
	string to help us remember (continue with the memory verse)			

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

For the older children let them use the clue to work out the Bible verse and find it in the Bible to solve the case.

BIBLE DETECTIVES GET READY!

Case # 1: What is a miracle?

A person that is blind is someone that cannot not see anything. Sometimes medicines or operations can help people who are blind to see and other times not.

The Bible tells us about when Jesus met a man who was born blind. Do you think Jesus made him be able to see again? YES! Let's read how He did it.

Clue: Read the 4th book of the New Testament 9:6-7

Read John 9:6-7

⁶ After Jesus said this, He spit on the dirt, made some mud and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ Jesus told him, "Go and wash in Siloam pool." (Siloam means "Sent.") So the man went to the pool, washed and came back. He was now able to <u>see</u>.

Do you think spitting on dirt and putting the mud on a blind person's eyes will make them see? NO, that's impossible! The man was healed by Jesus' power. It was a miracle.

We have solved the case:

A miracle is something that Jesus does through His power that is IMPOSSIBLE for people to do.

Case # 2: Is anything too hard for God?

We read in the Bible so many things that God has done that would be impossible for people to do. He made man by breathing life into dust (Genesis 2:7); He confused enemy armies so His people could win battles, He healed people, He raised people from the dead and so so much more.

Do you think there is anything too hard for God to do?

Clue: The Book after Matthew but before Luke chapter 10 verse 27

Read Mark 10:27.

"That is something people cannot do, but God can. He can do anything."

(Note: Don't raise it specifically but be prepared to answer the question if a child asks why God hasn't healed them/someone yet, or why He hasn't answered a prayer yet. Comfort them with the truth that God hears every single one of their prayers (1 John 5:14) and answers them according to what is best. It may be confusing to us to think that someone suffering is best, but God doesn't just look at the now, He looks at the eternal plan for us and the people around us. We can trust God because He loves us and knows what is best.)

We have solved the case:

Nothing is too difficult for God to do! He can do anything!

Case # 3: Once God has done a miracle what must we do next?

The Bible is full of stories of God's miracles - blind eyes were opened, God provided for people in an amazing way and so many more.

In Joshua 3, we read of an amazing miracle God performed for His people. He caused the Jordan River to **stop flowing** so they could cross on dry ground into the Promised Land. When every one of the Israelites had hurried across the Jordan River and the priests carrying the ark of the covenant (the important box that had the 10 commandment stones, jar of manna, and Aarons rod inside) on poles were still standing in the middle of the river, God then instructed them, through Joshua, to gather twelve stones from the Jordan and put them by where they camped that night.

Let's see why God told them to do this.

Clue: The 6th book of the OLD Testament chapter 4 verses 6 and 7

Read Joshua 4:6 - 7

⁶ These rocks will be a sign for you. In the future, your children will ask you, 'What do these rocks mean?' ⁷ You will tell them that the Lord stopped the water from flowing in the Jordan River. When the Holy Box of the LORD's Agreement crossed the river, the water stopped flowing. <u>These rocks will help the Israelites</u> remember this forever."

This week's action word is remember.(act it out) We need to remember God's miracles. These rocks were put there as a sign, as a remembrance, of what God accomplished for his people on that day.

What has God done for you, that only He could do? (Salvation, healing etc. Encourage the children to tell what God has done in their lives)

Why do you think that is important to remember the miracles God has done - in the Bible and in our own lives? (To give Him glory, to help us remember that God is faithful and good and involved in our lives...)

How can we remind ourselves of the things he does in our lives? (let the children come up with a few ideas e.g. reading the Bible, hanging their craft, naming something before bed etc.)

We have solved the case:

REMEMBER the miracles He has done.

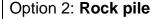
4) Bible Detective Question

What was the first miracle that Jesus performed while on Earth? (John 2: 1-11) (Jesus turned water into wine)

5) Craft

Option 1: Remember stones

Give each child a pebble that they can decorate and write/draw something that God has done for them on it.





Write/draw and decorate the stones with things you want to

remember God doing for you!

Option 3: Paper plate and ribbon/string threading Give each child a paper plate that you have punched holes

around the edges. Let them thread the string around the edges using a sugar stirrer (link the 'tie a string around your finger' object lesson to this).

Paste the memory verse page on and let them write/draw the things that God has done for them all around to help them remember.



FOR DESIGNA

TO SHEETED

Lesson Nine: Remember His promises

Main focus for the lesson:

- God cannot tell a lie and always keeps His promises
- The rainbow is a reminder of His faithfulness to His promises.
- We need to **always remember** the promise that God has made and will **never end** the gift of forgiveness and eternity in Heaven through believing in Jesus.

1) Memory Verse

• 1 Chronicles 16:15

Remember His agreement forever, the promise He gave that will <u>NEVER</u> <u>END</u>. (For younger children: Remember the promise He gave that will <u>NEVER END</u>)

Idea to teach the memory verse

Choose something very long e.g. big ball of string, tape measure or paper receipt roll.

Read the verse and say:

God has made us a promise. A promise that if we believe in His son, Jesus, we will receive the gift of forgiveness and get to live with Him forever in Heaven! This promise will NEVER END AND NEVER RUN OUT.

Get them to repeat the verse every time you unroll the string a little bit more. Ask each time things like ... will His promise end today/tomorrow/in 10 years? Will His promise end if I'm naughty/good/silly?

Before reaching the end of the string walk out of the room and pretend it has looped around the world, moon etc. and is still going.

2) Hands on

2.1) Just before the lesson:

For older children

Play the following game with the children either using 2 leaders or 2 volunteers.

The leaders/volunteers have to tell the class two truths and one lie about themselves. The rest of the class have to guess which are the truths and which is the lie.

For younger children

(Remember to use a hat or prop to show the children you are in character)

Choose 2 trustworthy volunteers and a leader and give them all a biscuit and get them all to promise not to eat it until the end of the lesson.

The leader can stress the point saying "I promise I won't eat this biscuit until the end of the lesson! Do you believe me?" Keep stressing that you won't eat it. Then precede to eat it, making sure to get crumbs or chocolate all over your face as evidence.

When you ask the leader where their biscuit is they keep telling lies and making excuses *like* "What biscuit? You didn't give me one yet! Someone else must have eaten it"

For a bit of fun get the children to pretend to be detectives to solve the case of the missing biscuit. Using clues, evidence and witnesses conclude that the leader has lied, broken their promise and eaten the biscuit!

Eventually the leader admits that he told a lie and asks for forgiveness. The leader then asks for another cookie and says I promise this time I won't eat it! End by asking "Should I trust him?" (continue with the Bible story and lesson.)

2.2) Little ones may enjoy the little song at the beginning of this clip: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thDNUanqu0M GOD SAID IT, I BELIEVE, that's as simple as ABC

2.3) Science experiment to be performed as part of the lesson.



Label and fill 3 cups to half way as follows:

You – water Sin – iodine God – bleach

God is perfect and it is impossible for Him to sin or lie or break His promise ("God" cup remains clear even when "sin" is added)

We are not perfect! We can and do lie, sin and break our promises. We can be evil just like the people in the times of Noah.

("You" cup becomes stained when "sin" is added)

But GOD! He has made the most amazing everlasting promise to us. The promise that when we believe in Him we will be forgiven of our sins and be able to live with Him forever in Heaven. God through His promise makes us perfect (adding "God" to our sinful lives makes us clear)

NOTE: Never make out like this is magic or a trick. Be honest if they ask that you are using chemicals to demonstrate this important truth.

3) Bible Story + Lesson:

Has anyone ever lied to you? How did it make you feel? (most will want to share of everyone else's faults)

Have you ever lied to someone else? (probably a little less sharing now!)

We all know that it is not good to lie. And even though we hate it when someone does it to us, we still lie to other people!

How amazing would it be if we knew someone could never tell a lie. If someone could only tell the truth would you trust them? Yes it would be easy to trust someone if you knew what they said was always true and would always happen.

Do you know that God CANNOT TELL A LIE! (Hebrews 6:18)
Because God is perfect and without sin, it is impossible for Him to lie!
(demonstrate by putting a few drops of the "sin" into the "God" jar and watch it remain clear)

That means when God makes a promise, we can trust that it is true and will always happen!

BIBLE DETECTIVES GET READY!

Come on Bible detectives - let's look at the very first promise/covenant that we find in the Bible and see what happens.

Read Genesis 6:11-22 and explain that God saw how people were full of sin and had ruined the Earth. Then get them to use the Bible to answer the following questions:

Who made the first covenant or promise in the Bible? (Genesis 6:18) God Who did He make this promise with? (Genesis 6:18) Noah & his family Did Noah trust that God would keep this promise? (Genesis 6:22) It looks like

<u>ít because he díd EVERYTHING God had commanded.</u>

Did God keep His promise? Yes!

The floods came just as God had promised and everything was destroyed. Eventually all the water dried up and Noah, his family and all the animals on the ark were safe. Read Genesis 9:8-17 and to answer these questions too.

Read Genesis 9:8-17

Who made this covenant or promise? (Genesis 9:9) God

Who did He make this promise with? (Genesis 9:9-10) <u>With every living thing</u> What is this promise? (Genesis 9:11) <u>A flood won't destroy the world again.</u>

There had never been rain before the time of Noah and the flood. God knew the people would be fearful the next time it rained, thinking that it could destroy all the Earth again, so He gave us all a reminder to show that He will always keep this promise.

What is that reminder? (Genesis 9:13) A rainbow

Did God keep His promise? Yes!

Well done. Today you discovered that God keeps His promise! The Bible is filled with so many promises that God has made and every single time He has kept them!

Knowing that God cannot lie, knowing of all these times He kept His promises helps us to trust Him with other promises He makes with us.

One of these promises is the one we learnt about in our memory verse today – the one we must *always remember*.

You see just like the people in Noah's time we also lie, break promises to God and sin. (add "sin" to "you" cup)

And so God has made a covenant with us. A promise that we know and can trust that He is faithful to keep.

That when we believe in His son, Jesus, we will be given the gift of forgiveness and will be able to live with God in Heaven forever!

(add "God" to the "you" cup and we will be made clear and forgiven")

What a beautiful promise that is! Do you think He will keep it? YES!

4) Bible Detective Question

a) What should we do to remember the covenant/promise God has made with us? (Matthew 26:26-28) (break bread and drink wine in remembrance of what Jesus did on the cross so that when we believe we get the gift of forgiveness and eternity in Heaven)

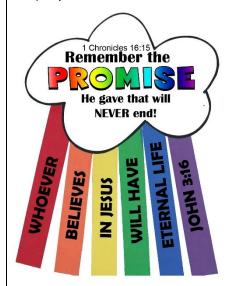
5) Craft

5.1) Option 1 Decorate the rainbow with torn coloured paper and cotton wool.

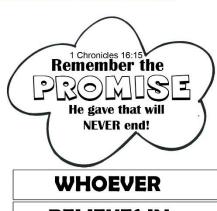




5.2) Option 2 Colour the verse in the rainbow colours.







BELIEVES IN

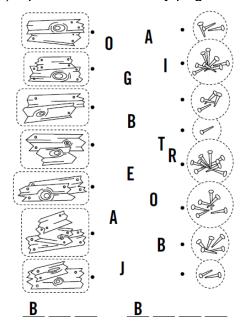
JESUS

WILL HAVE

ETERNAL LIFE

JOHN 3:16

5.3) Option 3 Noah activity page:



Lesson Ten: All the people PRAISED the Lord and said AMEN.

- This lesson serves well for summarizing and putting into practice all they have learned this term.
- Include self-made instruments, flags etc during worship time, making sure that they know that praising from the heart.
- Celebrate all they have learned and encourage them to keep the detective work up!

1) Memory Verse

1 Chronicles 16:36

"All the people praised the Lord and said "Amen"

Idea to teach the memory verse

Have all the children sitting together on one side of the room.

- Call one child to come up and say the memory verse.
- Once he/she has said it remind the child that is says ALL THE PEOPLE.
 Get him/her to call a friend
- After they have said it together, get each of them to choose someone else.
- Keep doing this until all the children are standing up and saying the memory verse together.

2) Hands on

2.1) From the start of the morning get two of the leaders to dress up as children, let's call them Sipho and Sophie. Let one come with pig tails. They could even where their school uniform. Get them to act really jovial and silly.



Have the children all sitting down and let Sipho and Sophie sit with them. Ask for two volunteers to play a game, then choose Sipho and Sophie.

Each of them gets a turn to throw a bean bag into the hoola hoop (even though Sipho and Sophie are acting silly you still want them **both** to get the bean bag into the hoola hoop).

After the first attempt **praise** Sipho and pat them on the back and tell them how clever he was. Ignore Sophie and don't give her any praise.

Let them have another turn to throw the bean bag.

Again **praise** Sipho and congratulate him. You could even use one of those party poppers or throw some confetti at them. But ignore Sophie.

Let them have a third turn, now throw some balloons or sweets Sipho but continue ignoring the Sophie.

At the end tell the children did you all see how well Sipho did. Isn't he amazing. I am so proud of how he has done.

Get one of the leaders to come up and chat to you, saying but what about Sophie she also tried her best and she also did so well.

Ask Sipho how did all the praise make you feel?

Sipho – it made me feel really good. It was so cool to know that you were all supporting me. My heart was so excited.

Sophie how did you feel?

Sophie – I felt really sad. I was so excited to play the game but when I wasn't given any praise I started feeling really bad.

Say: Do you know that the dictionary says that "praise" is to admire someone or to show approval.

How many of you think I should have praised Sophie and said how good she was?" I was actually pretending to ignore Sophie as I wanted you to see how awful it is when we don't give someone the praise they deserve.

Sophie and Sipho deserve some praise today but God deserves so much more praise EVERYDAY! God is amazing, He loves us, He looks after us and He heals us. Every day we should wake up with a heart that wants to praise Him.

Every day we should have a heart like Psalm 34:1 says

"I will praise the Lord at all times, I will never stop singing his praises".

Psalm 34:1 ERV

Are you ready to praise Him?

3) Bible Story + Lesson

Recap lesson.

Kids welcome to today's Bible detectives game show.

Have the following words printed out and stick them in a row. Print the arrow as well and stick it on that wall.

GIVE THANKS	TELL	SING
BOAST	GO	REMEMBER
PRAISE		



Get your leaders to dress up as the bible character and to act out the following stories.

The children need to guess which word they are expressing.

Name of the person	Scripture	Their response to God
Lame man that picks up his mat and goes walking, and leaping and praising God	Acts 3:1-10	Praised God
Mary sung a song of praise as she and Elizabeth greet each other.	Luke 1:46-56	Sing
One leper who was healed came back and thanked Jesus.	Luke 17: 11-19	Gave thanks
Phillip went to the city of Samaria and told the people about the Messiah. There the people heard and saw the miraculous signs he was doing. They all listened carefully to what he said.	Acts 8:5	Tell
The woman with the issue of blood. She went to Jesus for help and He healed her.	Matthew 9:20	Go
David boasting about the Lord as in Psalm 34 I will boast only in the LORD; let all who are helpless take heart. 3 Come, let us tell of the LORD's greatness; let us exalt his name together.	Psalm 34:1-3	Boast
Noah looking up into the sky and seeing a rainbow. Remembering that God will keep his promises.	Genesis 9:17	Remember

Give the children the opportunity at the end to choose one or more actions they want to do to praise God right there and then.

4) Craft

Encourage children to take crafts home and use them to teach the lesson



Use sweets to decorate the faces. Try get them to depict one of the verbs they have learnt through 1 Chronicle 16. You could use pretzels, carrot sticks etc to create the body.