



WOW

**HOW GREAT
IS OUR**

GOOD

Wow! How great is our God

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Wow! How Great is our God.

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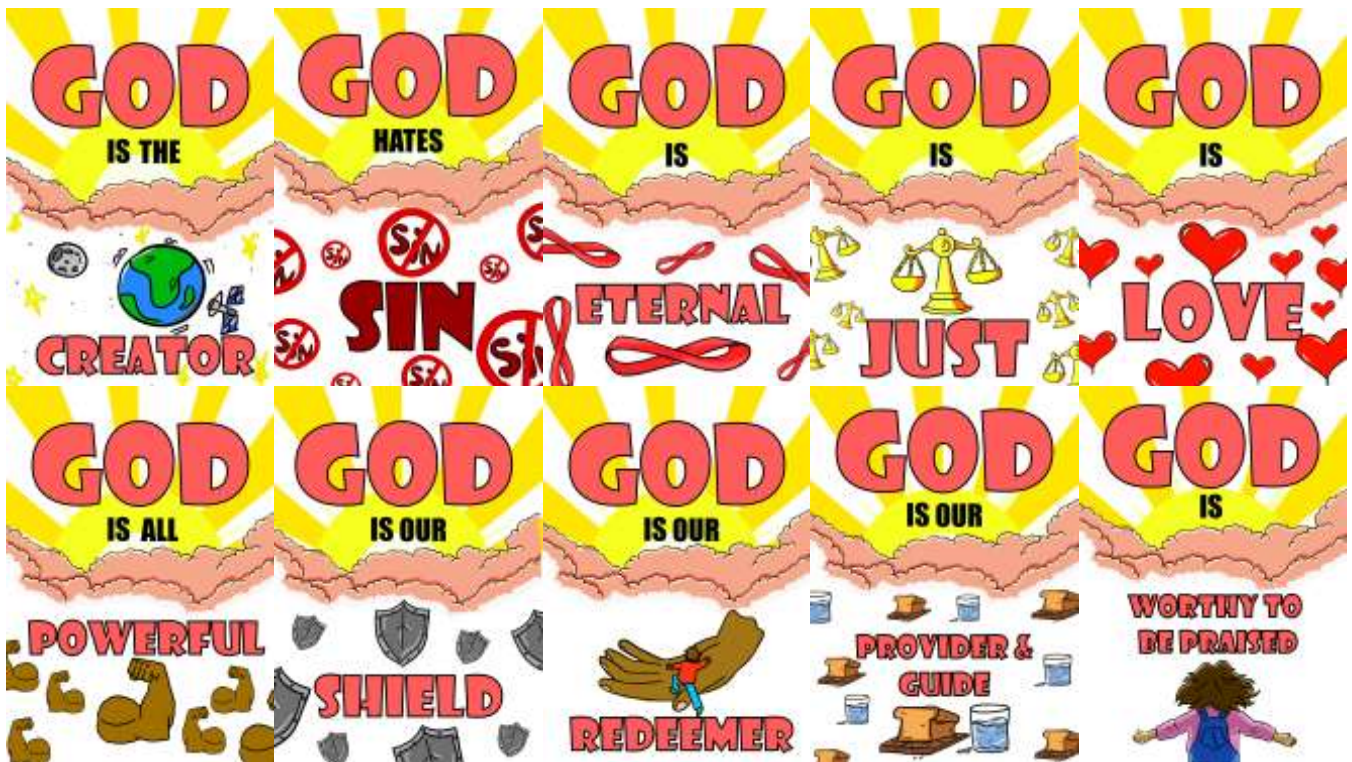
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Letter to the leaders

When we ask our children “Do you love God?” their answer is a resounding “YES!”. And rightfully so as God makes it so easy to love Him. The answer to the question “Who is God?” does not come as easily and yet this answer helps us love Him even more.

The answer to “Who is God?” is not an easy one because He is so many things and a perfection of each of them. In this series we will take a closer look at just some of the attributes of God that shows that He really is like none other and He is the only one that deserves our worship.

The main thing we want our children to walk away with is “Wow! How great is our God.”



Lesson 1: God is the Creator

Main focus for the lesson:

- Look a little closer and you will see how great God, our creator, is.
- Come, let us worship God the Creator.

1) Memory Verse

- Psalm 95:6

“Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker, for He is our God.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

- A rod or stick
- Six toilet rolls wrapped with the following words and pictures



Begin with the children working together to slip the toilet rolls onto the rod in the correct order. They can use their Bibles or the song to help. <https://youtu.be/IWEhZh3Ew8g?si=hJ217PPPH3wl-cP> Psalm 95:6

Next let them take turns to say and build the verse as quickly as they can. Time and see who can do it the fastest. Make multiple sets if needed.

See this in action: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kPJW9PiOgtc>

2) Hands On

Option 1: True or False

Read statements about creation and let the children decide if it is true or false. When it is true get them to stand up and say a shortened version of the memory verse “Come, let us worship our creator God.” Psalm 95:6

Find a link to the quiz at <https://youtu.be/VXkcgQHb1V4>

Statement	Answer
Cats always land on their feet.	True. God made cats with a built in reflex and a bendy spine so they can quickly turn and land on their feet.
Ostriches stick their heads in the sand.	False, but they may play dead by flopping onto the ground.
Some animals glow in the dark.	True. For example, the anglerfish lives deep in the ocean and God gave them glow in the dark fishing rods to help them catch food.

Bulls charge when they see red.	False, they don't see colours well and so will probably charge at blue, green and yellow too.
Things smell nicer through your right nostril than your left.	True. God made your brain to process the same smells differently from each nostril.
The world is a giant magnet.	True. God made many animals able to sense the magnetism and some like the blind mole rat use it to know which direction is which.
A flamingo can only eat when its head is upside down.	True. God made their top jaw able to move so they turn their heads to chew.
Elephants use their nose as a straw to drink water.	False. They only suck the water up part of the way and then pour it in their mouths to drink.
Your eyes can see about ten million colours.	True. God made our eyes so they can bend light which our brains then see as colour.
Lightning cannot strike in the same place twice.	False. The Brixton tower in Johannesburg gets struck about 40 times a year.
A shark loses their teeth all the time.	True. Sharks can lose and grow up to 30 000 teeth in their lifetime.
Some butterflies have ears on their wings.	True. They can hear high pitches to know if a bird is singing or low pitches to know if a bird is flying to come and eat them.
Owls turn their heads 360°.	False. Their neck would break. Their eyeballs can't move but God made their neck turn 270°.
Elephants are very good swimmers.	True. Even though they are the largest mammals in the world they are very good swimmers and even use their trunks as snorkels.
Your tongue grows new taste buds.	True. God made your tongue so it grows new taste buds every two weeks. Children have more than adults.
Jellyfish are made of jelly.	False. They are made of 90% water with a mouth and tentacles. They don't have brains, a heart or bones.
The blue whale has the biggest heart.	True. One blue whale heart is the same weight as 1500 human hearts.
In space you can hear the planets moving.	False. Sound travels through tiny particles but there are none in space so there is no sound.
Porcupines are great swimmers.	True. They have tiny pockets of air in their quills which help them float.
Sand struck by lightning can turn to glass.	True. Drigg fulgurite is glass formed when a certain sand is struck by lightning.
Most of your bones are found in your feet.	True. We have 206 bones in our bodies and 52 of them are found in our feet. More than a quarter of our bones.

Option 2: What day was it created?



This is best played after the lesson. Name something that God created. The children will shout out “WOW, how great is our God” and run to the day that God created it.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

Use the camera cut out and the “Look a little closer” facts to help the children see just how great God is. These and the things around us show just how easy it is to worship and praise God.



Use the link to find out how to make the camera: <https://youtu.be/LxLbUfVLsdo>

Look around you. What do you see? (Let the children answer) We see trees, birds, cars, buildings, windows, clothes, pencils, tables. There are so many things around us and do you know who created these things?

Did you know God created everything? We know God made the trees, skies, animals and people around us. But sometimes we look at the things around us like walls, stationery, toys, cars, TVs, phones and so much more and we think but people made those not God.

But let’s look a little closer. *Hold up a pencil.* If we took away the wood God made, the lead God made, the colours God made, what would be left? *Nothing.*

What about the shirt you are wearing? It is probably made from cotton which is from a plant. Or wool which is from a sheep. Without God creating plants and animals you would open up your cupboard to get dressed and there would be nothing!

What about a TV or a game you like playing? Without the things God created like light, sound and people there would be nothing.

So when we look a little closer we see that without God’s creation we would have nothing. And that is exactly how it was in the beginning. Nothing existed except

God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. They have always been and will always be because they don't need anything to exist. (John 1:3; Genesis 1:1)

But then God spoke.

Bring out the camera and pretend you have taken some pictures of creation so we can learn how great God is.

DAY 1 – God made Light and Darkness

³ God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. Then He separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day" and the darkness "night." Genesis 1:3-5

God just said, "Let there be light" and there was. If you had to see that happen what would you say? (*Wow! Awesome! That's incredible*)

Sometimes we get so used to seeing things that we forget how incredible they are. We need to take the time to look a little closer at the things God has made as then it will be so easy for us to tell God how awesome, amazing and incredible He is.

Look a little closer at how great God our creator is:

Light travels at 299 792 458 metres per second. That is super-fast! If we ran at that speed, we would run around the whole world seven and a half times in just one second. Every time you see light remember God made that just by speaking. Wow, how great is our God.

But God didn't stop there.

DAY 2 – God made the sky

⁶ Then God said, "Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth." Genesis 1:6

⁸ God called the space "sky." Genesis 1:8

On the second day God made the atmosphere which acts like a blanket of air that wraps around the earth and keeps it safe. No harmful rays can damage the earth, it keeps the temperature of the earth just right and keeps in the oxygen we need to live.

Look a little closer at how great God our creator is:

Even if you took the strongest microscope you still wouldn't be able to see air or other gases. But we can see what gases do. When you see a balloon float, praise God for making helium. When you see bubble in your fizzy drink, praise God for making carbon dioxide. When you take a deep breath and your lungs fill up, praise God for the oxygen He made. And He made it all just by speaking. Wow, how great is our God.

DAY 3 – God made seas, land and plants

⁹Then God said, “Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear.” And that is what happened. ¹⁰God called the dry ground “land” and the waters “seas.” And God saw that it was good. ¹¹Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.” And that is what happened. Genesis 1:9-11

Can you see how God was getting everything ready for life to live on earth? He was making a place for creatures to live and things for them to eat. And when He looked at it He said it was good.

Look a little closer at how great God our creator is:

The smallest flowering plant is called the Wolffia globosa. The whole plant can fit on top of a pin, yet it is filled with protein, vitamins and minerals that keep fish, birds and water creatures healthy and strong. When we see vegetables on our plates let's remember to thank God because just by speaking, He made everything we need to live. Wow, how great is our God.

DAY 4 – God made the sun, moon and stars

¹⁴Then God said, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, days, and years. ¹⁵Let these lights in the sky shine down on the earth.” And that is what happened. ¹⁶God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars. Genesis 1:14-16

What is the “larger light” God made that governs the day? *The sun*

What is the “smaller light” God made that governs the night? *The moon*

Do the stars disappear during the day? No, they are still there. You just can't see them because the sun is shining so brightly.

Look a little closer at how great God our creator is:

The world is filled with so many huge things: Huge deserts, mountains and huge oceans. But did you know that a million earths can fit in the sun. And the sun is tiny compared to other stars and planets that God created! And God made all of this just by speaking. Wow, how great is our God.

DAY 5 – God made sea life and flying animals

²⁰Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.” Genesis 1:20

There are so many amazing facts about God's creation. Birds can sleep while flying, the hummingbird can fly backwards, turkey vultures vomit as self-defence,

fish don't blink and some sea creatures live as deep as ten kilometres under the water.

Look a little closer at how great God our creator is:

But what about the birds we see every day. Did you know that the pigeons you see eating your left over breadcrumbs on the school fields can recognise your face? Pigeons can even recognise themselves in a photograph! And God made them just by speaking. Wow, how great is our God.

DAY 6 – Animals and people

Then God said, "Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals." And that is what happened. Genesis 1:24

Once God had made the world, He filled it. Can you make the sound of your favourite animal? We may be able to make their sound but God just spoke and those animals were made. Do you think God deserves to be worshipped? Yes!
27 So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God, He created them; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:27

God made millions of things but the Bible tells us that people are His favourite! God made us to show others how great He is.

Look a little closer at how great God our creator is:

The easiest place to look and see how great God is, is to look at yourself. *Get the children to feel their muscles move, feel their bones, feel their heartbeat, swallow their spit etc. as you mention how amazing God is to create us.*

Did you know that you use 72 different muscles every time you talk? You have 206 bones in your body and 52 of them are in your feet. All the blood in your body passes through your heart every minute. In your life you will make enough spit to fill about 500 bathtubs. Your nose makes about a cup of nasal mucus every day. You lose dead skin all the time and so in your lifetime will have about 1000 different skins. Your body has 2.5 million sweat pores. Wow, how great is our God.

When we worship God we choose to make Him the most important part of our lives and we show Him how much we love Him through our actions, thoughts, choices and everything we do. Without God we would have nothing. Everything we see, hear, touch, taste, smell or experience should make us go WOW, how great are you God. Look around you again but this time look a little closer and see how easy it is to praise and worship God for all He has made!

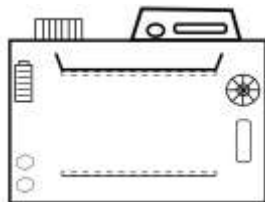
4) Review Questions

- a) What is your favourite thing that God has created? What will it remind you to do the next time you see it? *Worship and praise God.*
- b) What does it mean to worship and praise God? *When we worship God we choose to make Him the most important part of our lives and we show Him how much we love Him through our actions, thoughts, choices and everything we do.*
- c) Only if children ask, here are some ways to explain their questions about creation.
 - a. "Who created God?" God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit were all there when everything was created. Before them there was nothing! God does not need anything to exist. He is eternal. He has always been and will always be.
 - b. "Did God create the devil or evil?" You can explain that evil is not a thing to be created but rather the absence of good. For example, think of a donut. The hole in the middle isn't made, it is the absence of the donut. It can't be put on the side on its own. Everything God made is good but God made us with a choice. He wants us to choose His goodness. So yes God did create the angel but he chose to be evil.

5) Crafts

Option 1: Look a little closer camera

Children make their own camera with a sliding film of verses and facts.



Option 2: True or False Quiz cards

Print the True and False Quiz cards back to back for the children to make their own set. Children can also make their own quiz questions using facts they know.



Lesson 2: God hates sin

Main focus for the lesson:

- Sin is going against what God says and against what God sees as right.
- God hates sin because it separates us from Him.
- God sent Jesus to take away the sins of the world.

1) Memory Verse

- Psalm 97:10

You who love the Lord, hate evil.

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Children lie on their stomachs in a line.

The leader rolls the ball towards them and each child has to do a push up to dodge the ball as it rolls under them.

Each time they will all say, "You who love the Lord" (*All lift to dodge the ball*) "hate evil".



2) Hands on

"Love it" or "Hate it"



Read from the table below and get the children to choose whether they love or hate it. If they "love it" they should make a heart shape with two hands. If they "hate it" they should use both hands to make a flick away movement as shown in sign language.



Having Jesus in my heart	Playing with puppies	Playing outside on a sunny day
Doing homework every day	A hug from a friend	Loadshedding
A big bowl of ice-cream	School holidays	Getting a new t-shirt
Stepping in the mud with new shoes	Staying up late to watch TV	Getting a hole in your new t-shirt
A mug of hot chocolate on a rainy day	Going on a bus ride with all your friends	Scoring a goal

Getting punished for getting in trouble with the teacher	Chocolate cake with extra icing	Making a big splash in the pool
An ice-lolly on a hot day	Doing chores	Knowing Jesus loves you

We use the words love and hate all the time. God tells us there is something that we should love above everything else. Do you know what it is? Yes. God wants us to love Him more than anything! (Matthew 22:37)

But there is also something that God wants us to hate! Do you know what it is? God hates evil and God hates sin and He wants us to hate it too.

Psalm 97:10 You who love the LORD, hate evil!

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Picture of the world placed in a plastic sleeve
- White board marker pen
- Laminated person
- Tissue to rub off (Do not use wet wipes)

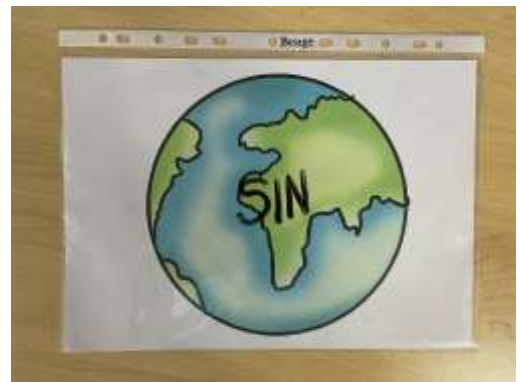


We know God is the Creator. He created the world and He created people to have a close relationship with Him. And when God looked at all He created He said, "It is good".

But then sin entered the world. *(Write "sin" on the plastic sleeve)*

We use the word sin a lot. But what is sin? *(Let the children answer.)*

Sin is disobedience toward God. The first sin was when Adam and Eve ate from the tree that God told them not to. They had disobeyed God. They had sinned.



Sin is going against what God says and against what God sees as right. God says love Him. And God says love others. To not do this perfectly is sin. *(Write not loving God and others perfectly on the plastic sleeve)*

Can you think of some examples of sin? *(Let the children name some things that go against God and write them on the plastic sleeve. E.g. Being jealous,*

praying to fake gods, disobeying God, doing something that hurts others, telling a lie, cheating on a test, stealing, making other things more important than God.)

God hates sin

Did you know that God hates sin? God hates sin because sin made His perfect world a mess. *(Refer to the picture now covered in sin and write on the plastic sleeve what sin has done to the world)*

Because of sin we now have hate, greed, sickness, fear, a lost identity of who we are, broken families, war and so many other things that are not from God. God hates sin even more because sin means we cannot be with Him. When Adam and Eve sinned they had to leave the garden. Sin means separation from God. Sin means death and no life with God. *(Write "separation from God" on the plastic sleeve)* This is not what God wants and so God hates sin.

God hates sin so much that immediately at the moment the first sin was made God said He would send someone who would beat evil and take away sin. *(Genesis 3:15)*

God hates sin so much that He sent messengers to warn people to stop sinning. And when people didn't listen He sent punishment to show them how serious sin is. Some of these punishments seem scary but they show us how much God hates sin.

God hates our sin but loves us

(Show the laminated person.) We read about all these sinful people in the Bible and we think phew at least we aren't sinners like they are. But we were born in a world full of sin. *(Slip the person into the plastic sleeve.)*



Have you ever sinned? Have you ever told a lie? Have you ever taken something that is not yours? Have you ever thought you were better than someone else? Have you ever wanted what someone else has? Have you looked at someone and thought "Wow, they are the best person ever"? That means you are a greedy liar, a thief, an idol worshipper and a sinner. We don't see ourselves like that but that is who we are. *(Remove the laminated person from the plastic sleeve write some sins on the person.)*

So if God hates sin and we have sinned does that mean God hates us? **NO! God hates sin but God loves us, even while we are sinners.** (Romans 5:8)

God hates sin so much that He even sent **His only son** to die on the cross as He knew it was the only way to get rid of our sin. God did this while people were still doing things against Him. That shows us that God really loves us! *(Wipe the sin off the laminated person)*

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16



What do I do if I sin?

Remember, sin is a big deal! We may think Adam and Eve just took a bite of a fruit. But that sin got them kicked out of the garden. Sin got cities destroyed, people swallowed up by the earth and people just dropped dead. The things that you have done against God are serious.

Come to Jesus. Come to Him with hearts that want forgiveness. Speak to Jesus because He is the only one who can save you from your sin. (1 John 1:9) Do your best to stop sinning. To help you do this remember 'WOW! How great is my God.' Remembering how great God is, helps us worship Him and keeps us from doing things against Him. Remember God hates sin but God loves me.

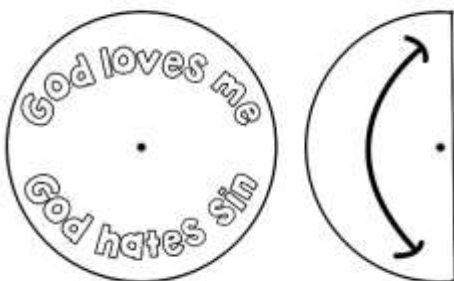
4) Review Questions:

- a) What does God hate? *Sin*
- b) Does God hate me if I sin? *No. God hates sin but He loves us. He loves us so much that He sent His only son to die in our place so that we could be forgiven.*
- c) What should you do if you sin? *Remember sin is a big problem. Come to Jesus and ask Him for forgiveness as He is the only one who can take away your sin. Remember how great God is and how He deserves our worship, not sin-filled lives.*
- d) What should we hate? *Sin*

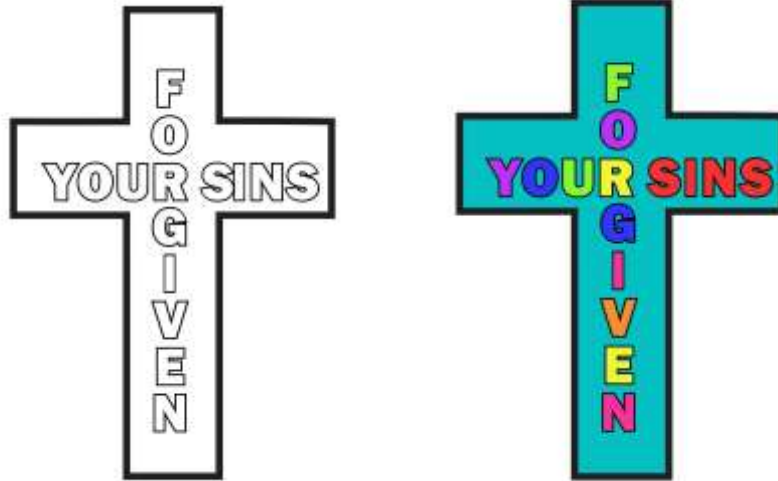
5) Craft

Option 1: God hates sin but God loves me (Smile)

God hates sin because it separates us from Him and ruins the world He made to be good. God loves me and so He sent His son.



Option 2: Your sins forgiven (Cross bookmark)



Option 3: God hates sin but God loves me (Person)

Decorate the little person to look like you. Flap a piece of plastic over the picture (or use a sandwich bag) and write "God hates sin" on it. Explain to the children that God hates sin but God never stops loving them even if they have sinned.



Lesson 3: God is Eternal

Main focus for the lesson:

- God has always been alive and will always be alive.
- Jesus gives us eternal life with God.

1) Memory Verse

- Revelation 22:13

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, like A and Z. This verse is telling us three times that God has always been alive and will always be alive. He started everything and He will finish everything.

Spin the spinner and say the verse from wherever it lands. Begin each time “God is...”

- **The Alpha and the Omega**, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.
- **The First and the Last**, the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and the Omega.
- **The Beginning and the End**, the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last.

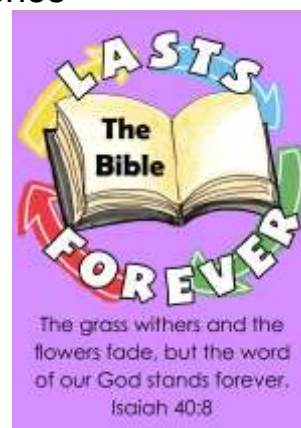
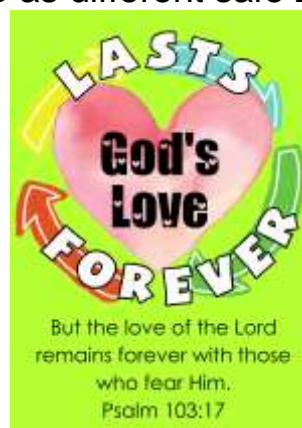
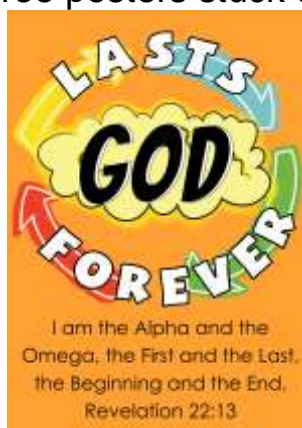


2) Hands On

Option 1: Game

What you will need:

- Three posters stuck up as different safe zones



Game instructions (*Adaptation of wolfie wolfie*)

- The leader walks around the venue and the children follow behind.
- The children call out the leader's name and ask the time. E.g. "Tyler, Tyler what's the time?"

- The leader gives a different time of day such as “One o’ clock” or “nap time”. When the leader says “Poster time” the leader turns to chase the children.
- The children must run to one of the posters and shout out what it says before they are caught.
- If the leader catches them before they get there they need to do ten jumping jacks.

Option 2: Möbius loop

A few twists, sticks and cuts and you will have a loop that never ends. This is a fun way to explain to children that God is eternal, His love never ends and His word lasts forever.

See this in action at https://youtu.be/RM_gb7r5Mac and learn how to make one at <https://youtu.be/NrZAWW3cdGM>

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need

- Old and expired items such as rotten food, worn out clothes or shoes etc.
- Turning wheel

Time is something we talk about every day. Hurry up. There isn’t time. Just for a little time. Later. It is easy for us to understand that time runs out.

We know that when the bell rings it means break time is over. And with just one smell of our week old lunch box or the bottle of sour milk from the fridge we know it has expired and is rotten. *(Let the children see or smell the rotten food to confirm its time is up)*. When we get a new shirt or new shoes we are excited but even these we know do not last forever. *(Show a worn out shirt or shoes that don’t fit)*

But God knew these things would not last. It even says so in the Bible. Listen to this verse and see if you can work out what will last forever. Psalm 102:25-27

²⁵ Long ago You laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with Your hands. ²⁶ They will perish, but You remain forever; they will wear out like old clothing. You will change them like a garment and discard them. ²⁷ But You are always the same; You will live forever.

What does this Psalm tell us about God? *He will live forever and He will always be the same.*

The idea of eternity, or forever, is hard for us to understand. Take the longest time you can think of and then double it. You still won’t be even close to eternity. Yet that is how long God will live for. Forever!

Turn the wheel each time to the arrows and ask the children if God was alive or existed at that time.

Before there was anything, was God there?

Yes, God existed before time.

Was God there when the world was created?

Yes, God existed at the beginning of time.

Is God here today? Yes, God exists now and is with you and me every day.

Will God always exist? Yes, God will exist even after time comes to an end.



It may be confusing but it should be

encouraging too because it means there will never be a time without God. Not even one second!

Can you work out what else will last forever?

But the love of the LORD remains forever with those who fear Him. Psalm 103:17

God's love will last forever. Wow, how great is God that His love for us will never end. (*This fear is not to be afraid but to respect and love God*)

The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever. Isaiah 40:8

God's word will last forever. Wow, how great is God that what He says will last forever!

There is someone else God wants to live forever too. Do you know who it is?

⁴⁰ For it is my Father's will that all who see His Son and believe in Him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day. John 6:40

God wants you to live forever with Him. And He made a way for this to be possible. He sent Jesus to die for our sins and come alive again. Because of Jesus we are forgiven and can live with God forever.

Wow, how great was God then, how great is God now and how great is God forever!

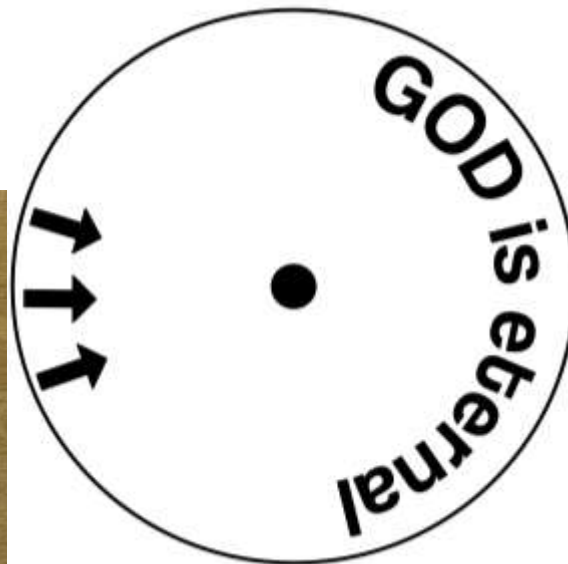
4) Review Questions

- What lasts forever? *God, His love and His word.* How does that make you feel?
- How can you live forever with God? *By believing in Jesus.*

c) Do you believe in Jesus? Does that mean you will live forever with Him? *If you believe in Jesus, then you will live forever with Him. This will never change. Because His love does not end, His word lasts forever and He promises that believing in Him leads to eternal life with Him.*

5) Crafts

Option 1: Spinning wheel



Option 2: Möbius loop



Here are the instructions on how to fold and cut a piece of paper to show that God's is eternal, His love lasts for ever and His word will never end.

<https://youtu.be/NrZAWW3cdGM>



Lesson 4: God is a Just Judge

Main focus for the lesson:

- God is the perfect judge who will judge us all fairly.
- Jesus takes the punishment for what we deserve.

1) Memory Verse

- Psalm 9:8

“God will judge the world with justice and rule the nations with fairness”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Read the verse from the Bible so that the children know what it actually says. Leaders then take turns to stand in front of the children and say the verse sometimes incorrectly and sometimes right. The children act as judges by giving a thumbs up or thumbs down and then repeat the verse correctly.

Here are some examples:

- God will justice the rules with nations and judge the fairness of the world
- God will judge the bad people with anger and rule the nations with fairness
- God will judge the world with harshness and rule Christians with fairness
- God will judge the world with justice and rule the nations with fairness

2) Hands On

Option 1: You be the judge scenarios

Leaders act out the different scenarios. After each you will say ***“You be the judge”*** and the children then judge by showing a thumbs up (for not guilty) or a thumbs down (for guilty)

Scenario 1: A good judge knows what happened

Three people stand in a line behind the leader. While the leader is talking, one of the people behind pulls funny faces at the leader without him seeing.

First the leader will judge them all as guilty for pulling faces. Ask the children if that would be fair? *No, and a good judge is fair and just.*

Leader says, ***“You be the judge”***. Go through each person and the children show a thumbs down for the one they think is guilty.

How do you know she is guilty? *A good judge knows and sees what happens. I didn't see so would it be fair if I said they were all guilty? No, a good judge is fair.*

Scenario 2: A good judge is fair and keeps the rules

Leader shows two people some toys and shows them the rule “if anyone touches the toys they cannot have a biscuit later”. One person talks the others into playing with them.

Leader lines them up again and says, “**You be the judge**”. *Go through each person and the children show a thumbs down for the one they think is guilty. The people can each blame each other and try to convince the children that they are not guilty.*

Ask the children are they allowed a biscuit? *No, they all broke the rules and because a good judge is fair and keeps the rules.*

Scenario 3: A good judge rewards good

The leader gives three people a list of duties. Two of them do very little. One of them works really hard and gets it all done.

Leader asks “Who did some work, **you be the judge?**” *Children show a thumbs up for those that did the duties and a thumbs down for those that did nothing.*

Leader then asks “Who deserves a reward for the work they did? **You be the judge.**” *Children show a thumbs up for the person that worked hard.*

A good judge doesn't only hand out punishments for bad things but also rewards the good things.

Option 2: Balance Scales Object lesson

The Bible story talks about “you have been weighed and found wanting”. This clip will help the children understand what this means.

See this in action at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C4kcLYtf7lw>

3) Bible Story + Lesson

Daniel 5:1-30 The Writing on the Wall



God told the people to build a temple where they could come and worship Him. He told them exactly how to build it and what must be inside. The people listened and worshipped God.

You be the judge. Was this good or bad? *Thumbs up.* It is good to listen to God and to worship Him.



Inside the temple were some gold plates and cups. They were important because they were used to worship God and to ask God for forgiveness. But King Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem and he stole them.

You be the judge. Was this good or bad? *Thumbs down.* We should not steal and we should never do things against God.



Many years later King Belshazzar of Babylon was having a big feast or party for a thousand men. He wanted to show everyone how important and superior he was so he commanded the stolen plates and cups from the temple be brought out and used at the feast. While everyone ate and drank from them they praised fake gods.

You be the judge. Was this good or bad?

Thumbs down. By doing this they were mocking God and we know He does not deserve to be treated like that! We also know that the Ten Commandments tell us that it is against the law to worship anyone else but God.



All of a sudden a hand appeared and with one of the fingers it began to write on the wall. "MENE MENE TEKEL PARSIN"

The king was terrified that the Bible says he went pale and his knees started wobbling and knocking against each other. He called for his advisors and magicians but they could not explain what the words meant. The king's mother then reminded him how Daniel had interpreted dreams and helped King Nebuchadnezzar many years before.

The king offered Daniel many rewards but Daniel refused them. Instead he reminded the king of all the good things God had done. Belshazzar knew all this but had chosen to ignore God. He had been happy to inherit a kingdom but not to admit that God was greater than himself.

You be the judge. Was this good or bad? *Thumbs down.* We can't just know God is great, we have to treat Him like He deserves to be treated.

With God's help Daniel was able to explain what the writing meant.



²⁵ "This is the message that was written: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN. ²⁶ This is what these words mean: Mene means 'numbered'—God has numbered the days of your reign and has brought it to an end. ²⁷ Tekel means 'weighed'—you have been weighed on the balances and have not measured up. ²⁸ Parsin means 'divided'—your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians."

God was saying that He had judged the king. Belshazzar had not lived like God had told him to. You be the judge. Was this good or bad? *Thumbs down*. So he would no longer be king and his kingdom would be given to others. You be the judge. Was God's judgement right or wrong? *Thumbs up*. Right. God is the perfect judge. His judgement is always right.

That very night, Darius, king of Persia, invaded the city of Babylon and not only did Belshazzar lose his kingdom but his life as well.

Although you all did pretty well at being judges, we don't come close to how perfect a judge God is. Especially when it comes to deciding if we need to be punished or not. If we had to be judged right now we would all say we are not guilty because we don't want to pay the price for what we have done wrong. But we are all guilty of sin and our punishment should be death or life without God. (Romans 6:23)

There is only one person who cannot be found guilty of any sin. Do you know who that is? Yes, Jesus. And yet He took on the punishment of all people and died in our place. Wow! How great is our God!

4) Review Questions

- If Jesus had to be judged would He be found guilty of sinning? *No. Jesus never sinned but He faced judgement on the cross for our sin. (2 Corinthians 5:21)*
- If we had to be judged would we be found guilty or not guilty of sinning? *We have all sinned and so we are guilty of sin. Yet, because of Jesus we are free from punishment for our sin. Believing in Jesus means we will be found not guilty. (Romans 3:23)*
- What do you want to say to Jesus for taking your punishment that you deserved? *Let the children pray and speak to Jesus privately.*

5) Crafts

Option 1: You be the judge

You be the judge and colour the thumbs up or the thumbs down. 

The people listened to God and worshipped Him



The king stole the gold cups used to worship God



The king used the cups at a party and praised fake gods



God is the perfect judge 



We have sinned



SIN

Jesus never sinned.



Jesus died for our sin.

Option 2: God is a fair judge (Water paint)

Use a white wax crayon or a candle to write the words "God is a fair judge". Then paint over it using a wax crayon to reveal what it says.

See this in action <https://youtu.be/Tm8keg0xDDY>



Lesson 5: God is Love

Main focus for the lesson:

- God is love.
- God loves perfectly.

1) Memory Verse

- 1 John 4:16

“We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in His love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

When we understand that God is love and we put our trust in God then our lives will show God’s love to others.

Option 1: Play musical statues using the following song:

G-O-D Is L-O-V-E - 1 John 4:16, Steve Green

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gz-ZubK35x0>

Every time the music stops the children have to freeze and repeat the shortened version of the verse, “God is Love” in different ways. E.g. Whisper, shout, slow motion, super-fast, squeaky voice, etc.

Option 2:

Divide the children into groups of nine. Give each child in the group one letter (G.O.D.I.S.L.O.V.E). The children have to arrange themselves in the line to figure out what the verse says.

2) Hands On

What you will need:

- Jar (*Represents a person*)
- A heart (*Represents love*)

See this in action at https://youtu.be/58XsHqI_Cl8

What do I have in this jar? (*Let the children answer*)

Yes, it is a heart. A heart makes us think of love. You may see love as something you can lose. So if I do something wrong then the person won’t love me anymore. (*Take the heart out of the jar*) Or maybe you think love is something you can earn. I gave something or was kind so now I deserve love and so the person will now love me. (*Add the heart back to the jar.*)

But our Bible verse tells us that God is love. (1 John 4:16) God doesn’t gain love for us or lose love for us depending on what we do. (*Put the heart in and out of the jar*). The difference is that God **is** love. It is who He is. (*Put the jar down and just show the heart.*) The love God has does not depend on what we do or how

we look. God loves us no matter what. And He loves perfectly because love is not what He does, it is who He is.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Large heart envelope to put the cards inside
- “Love is...” cards that flip over to show “God is...”

We may think of love as something we have or don't have; or something we give or keep to ourselves; something we earn or lose. But let's read the verse and see how God describes love.







1 Corinthians 13: 4- 7 (NLT)

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

There is a lot more to love than we may think. And because God is love, God is all of these things too. Let's look at some of the things this verse talks about.

	<p>What does it mean to be patient? <i>(Let the children answer)</i></p> <p>So if love is patient it means to not get upset or angry quickly but to keep on loving someone even if they make the same mistakes over and over again. (1 Corinthians 13:4)</p> <p>And if God is love then God is patient. <i>(Turn over the card.)</i></p> <p>How great is God that even though we do things that do not please Him, He patiently keeps loving us as we learn more about Him and how to live for Him.</p>	
	<p>To be kind means to act in a way that puts someone else's needs before your own.</p> <p>And if God is love then God is kind. <i>(Turn over the card.)</i> God is so kind that He give us everything we need. God is kind to give us food, clothes and family. And how great is God that He gave us the Bible, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.</p>	

	<p>When we are jealous, boastful, arrogant, rude, insistent or irritable, we act like we are more important than everyone else and our actions often end up hurting others. But love is none of these things. Love thinks of others.</p>	
	<p>Have you ever said to friend “You can’t use my pen because last time you...” or “You can’t come to my house because you...”? This is us keeping a record of the wrong things they have done. But love does not do this.</p>	
	<p>God says love never gives up. It lasts no matter what the situation.</p> <p>And although people may not love perfectly like this, God is love. God never gives up and He can overcome every problem or difficulty that we may face.</p>	

Love is so much more than these few things and if we want to know how to love we need to look at God. God is love and He loves perfectly. If we are to love, then we need to love like God. We need to be patient, kind, put others first, forgive others and never give up no matter what.

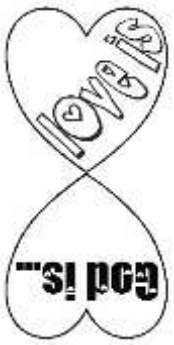
4) Review Questions

- Who loves perfectly? *God, because God is love.*
- What is love like? *Patient, kind, forgiving, considers others, lasts etc.*
1 Corinthians 13:4-7
- Who should we love? *God wants us to love like He does and He loves everyone. He does not love sin but He does love everyone.*

5) Crafts

Option 1: Heart pocket

Children decorate their own heart envelope and fill it with the cards.

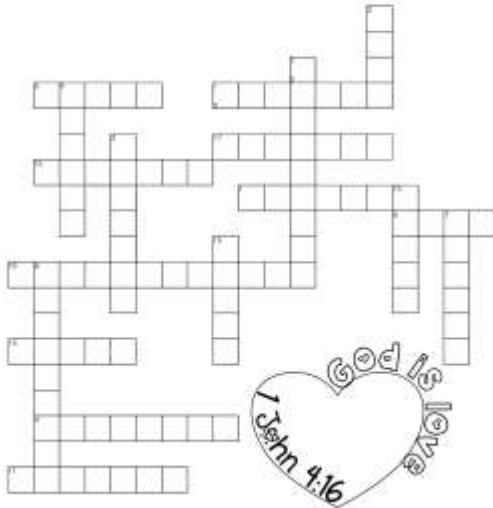


Option 2: Crossword

Love is...
...
...

Use 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 from the NLT Bible to complete the crossword.

Love is 1) _____ and 2) _____. Love is not 3) _____ or
4) _____ or 5) _____ or 6) _____. It does not 7) _____ its
own way. It is not 8) _____, and it keeps no 9) _____ of being
10) _____. It does not 11) _____ about 12) _____ but
rejoices whenever the 13) _____ wins out. Love never
14) _____ up, never loses 15) _____, is always 16) _____,
and 17) _____ through every 18) _____.



Lesson 6: God is All Powerful

- God has the ability to be everywhere all the time. *God is omnipresent.*
- God knows everything. *God is omniscient.*
- God has unlimited power. *God is omnipotent.*

1) Memory Verse

- Psalm 139:6

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!

Idea to teach the memory verse.

This activity is best done as part of the lesson and reading the whole Psalm will help the children understand why David is responding like this.

From spending time with God and getting to know Him more, David learnt that God is everywhere all the time, God knows everything and God has unlimited power. David must have thought, “Wow, how great is my God!”

When we read David’s song we can see why he sang **“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. Too great for me to understand!”**

Name things about God and do the following actions to help the children remember. God knows, put your hands on your head. Each time the children will copy the action and say the verse.

- God knows everything about us. (*Hands on your head*)
“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. Too great for me to understand!”
- God is everywhere all the time. (*Arms out wide*)
“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. Too great for me to understand!”
- God knows where you are. (*Hands on your head*)
“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. Too great for me to understand!”
- God knows everything you do. (*Hands on your head*)
“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. Too great for me to understand!”
- God has unlimited power. (*Muscle arms*)
“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. Too great for me to understand!”

2) Hands On

As the children arrive, let them play a variety of games. Here are some examples:

Guess how many...

Have a jar filled with something, such as beans and the children have to guess how many there are. Hide something in the middle of the jar which the children will not know is there. We will use this jar during the lesson to explain that God can see even what we cannot see and God knows everything.

How strong are you?

Play some strength testing games.

- Arm wrestling
- Hold your hand in a bucket of ice water the longest
- Stand back to back with a friend and squat while leaning on each other
- Push up contest
- Try crush an egg by squeezing it with one hand

Refer to these games in the lesson when discussing that God is stronger than anyone. His power is unlimited.

Did you know these fun facts?

Get the children to hold up ten fingers. The leader says some fun facts and if they know it the children put down a finger.

Fun fact #1: South Africa has 11 official languages

Fun fact #2: Soccer is the most popular sport in the world

Fun fact #3: Worker bees are always female

Fun fact #4: There are seven colours in the rainbow

Fun fact #5: Strawberries and raspberries grow their seeds on the outside

Fun fact #6: The cheetah is the fastest land animal

Fun fact #7: Raisins are dried up grapes

Fun fact #8: The oldest man in the Bible, Methuselah, lived to 969 years

Fun fact #9: Fingernails grow faster than toenails

Fun fact #10: Hot water turns to ice faster than cold water

Say: I can see that some of you knew all of the fun facts! Ok let's see if you know what I'm thinking. (*Pretend to be thinking.*) Do any of you know what I was thinking? No, you didn't! But I know someone who does! God knows what I was thinking! In fact, He knows what you are thinking (*point to someone*) and you, and you, (*Point to more children*) and actually God knows EVERY thought of EVERY person IN THE WHOLE WORLD!! The Bible tells us that God knows EVERYTHING!

3) Bible Story + Lesson

Note: Our focus is not to teach the children these words but rather who God is. God is omnipresent. God has the ability to be everywhere all the time. God is omniscient. God knows everything. He knows about the past, the present and the future. God is omnipotent. God has unlimited power. There is nothing God cannot do.

Have you ever gone looking for something? Your shoes, a toy, a school book or anything. You check your cupboard and you can't see it at all. And your mom says go back and look again but still you cannot see it. And then your mom comes in, she opens the cupboard and tah dah she's found it. And you think WOW my mom knows where everything is!

Or perhaps you have been sitting in class and your teacher is busy with something and so she can't see what you are doing. But without even turning around she says "Bobby, stop doing that!" And you think "How did she know! My teacher must be able to see everything!"

Now I saw you all playing some of those strength games and most of you look pretty strong. Show me your muscles. But have you ever tried to open a jar or a bottle and it just won't open. No matter how hard you try, that lid won't move. And then we give it to our dad and without any effort it is open and we think. Wow my dad is so strong and powerful!

There are many people around us who know a lot and are strong and so we see them as powerful but there is only one who knows everything. There is only one who can be everywhere at the same time. There is only one who has unlimited power. Do you know who that is? Yes, God knows everything! God is everywhere and God has unlimited power! How does knowing this about God make you feel? It should make you go WOW! How great is our God.

Let's look in the Bible to see just how great God is.

God is Omnipresent and Omniscient - God is everywhere and God knows everything

God is everywhere. He is in all places at the same time. Can you be on that side of the room and this side at the same time? *(Let the children try.)* No, but God can be and God is everywhere all the time!

God also knows everything. Do you know how many beans are in the jar? Some of us tried to count the ones we could see. Others of us just guessed. And you would have probably been wrong. *(Reveal that the inside is filled with something other than beans.)* But do you think God knew? Of course He did, He knows everything.

When David realised that God knows everything and is everywhere, he was so amazed that he wrote a song. In this song he sang.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. Too great for me to understand!
Psalm 139:6

Read Psalm 139 from the Bible and do the memory verse activity here.

¹ O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.
² You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. ³ You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. ⁴ You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. ⁵ You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. ⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!**

God is Omnipotent - God has unlimited power

Mark 4:35-41 - Jesus calms the storm.

Jesus and the disciples were on a boat when a huge storm started. The disciples were terrified as the strong wind made the waves crash onto the boat, filling it with water.



Jesus and the disciples were on a boat when a huge storm started. The disciples were terrified as the strong wind made the waves crash onto the boat, filling it with water.



But Jesus was calmly taking a nap.



The disciples shook Jesus and woke Him up by shouting "Jesus, don't you care that we are going to drown?"

They were so afraid because they did not realise how powerful Jesus is!



Jesus then spoke to the wind and the waves and said: 'Silence! Be still!'

And because Jesus has unlimited power what do you think happened?

Yes. The wind stopped howling and the water became perfectly calm.

This story and many others show us that God has unlimited power. *Show the action of muscles as in the verse.*

Knowing this should make you go WOW, How great is our God!

4) Review Questions

- a) What did you learn about God today? *Show the actions to help remind them that God knows everything, God is everywhere and God has unlimited power.*
- b) Does knowing this about God change how you will live? *Does it help you to do the right thing even when we think no one is watching because God is. It should give you courage, make you feel safe and change how you live. Let the children give their personal answer.*

5) Crafts

Option 1: 3D circle



Option 2: Writing paper

David made a song to sing about how great God is. Let the children do the same. Children can work together to write a song and put music and actions to it to sing to the others so they can let them know who God is to them.



Lesson 7: God is our Shield

Main focus for the lesson:

- God cares for us and His love protects us and defends us.
- We trust Him because his love is steadfast and protects us.

1) Memory Verse

- Psalm 5:12

“For You bless the godly, O LORD; you surround them with your shield of love.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Who are the godly? *People who love and follow Jesus.* Do you love and follow Jesus? Are you then godly? *Yes.*

What does this verse say about people who love Jesus? *God will surround them with His shield of love.*

What does it mean to be surrounded? *Let the children answer.*

Demonstrate by having two leaders join arms to make a circle and surround a child. Can anyone get to him when their arms are around them? *No.* Is the child in the middle protected? *Yes.*

The verse is teaching us that we who believe in God are protected because God loves us so much and He surrounds us with His protection like a gigantic shield.

Have two leaders link their hands in the air to make a tunnel that the children can walk through. The children line up at one side of the “tunnel” and start to walk through one by one. The leaders bring their arms down to “surround” a child who then says the verse. The leaders lift their arms back up and it’s the next child’s turn to go through and say the verse.

2) Hands On



What do the people in this picture all have in common? What are they all holding? *A shield.*

Do you think that a shield is important? Let’s see how different it is with and without a shield.

Demonstrate throwing balls at a leader first without a shield and then holding a shield.

Which was better, with or without a shield? We can see that shields are good and they help us.

Shields come in all different shapes and sizes. *Show the different pictures of the shields.*

Some are small to offer some protection but the soldier is still able to fight around the shield.

Others are larger and cover the whole body. Sometimes soldiers joined their shields so they could protect each other as they walked closer to the enemy.



Which shield would you choose?

Do you know that the Bible tells us that God is our shield? I think God as my shield is better than any of these shields! What about you?

So remember, the next time you are scared or worried, where can you run for help? Who will protect and defend you? *God! He is our biggest shield and protector.*

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Cut out each picture and staple them onto an empty toilet roll so that you are able to move them as you tell the story.

David and Absalom (2 Samuel 17,18)



David was a good king. He loved God and he loved the people he ruled. People knew David as a great soldier who had won against many enemies. *(All the pictures)*

David's son, Absalom, had rebelled against David and God and so he got scared and ran away. *(Move Absalom to the other side)* Yet, Absalom wanted to be king in David's place. Do you think he deserved to be king? *No, because he had rebelled.*



Years later Absalom came back to Jerusalem. He made himself look important by

showing off his long hair and riding around in a chariot with fifty bodyguards running in front of him. *(Move bodyguards to join Absalom)*



He pretended to be a judge and stood at the city gate and told the people that he would be a better king than David. He made the people love him by pretending to care about them and made promises he did not plan on keeping. *(Move a group of people to join Absalom)* He was doing all of these things so that the people would join his army and go against King David.



He even went to another town and secretly had them make him king. And he got some of David's important leaders to join his side instead of David's. *(Move leaders to join Absalom)*

When David found out about Absalom's strong army he was afraid for his people and so he made them run away from the city into the desert. *(Move David and his people away from Absalom)* As they fled, they passed people that shouted terrible things and threw stones and so David's people became very afraid.



As David travelled he heard that even more of his friends had left him and taken Absalom's side. Absalom's army was now huge. *(Move more people to join Absalom)*

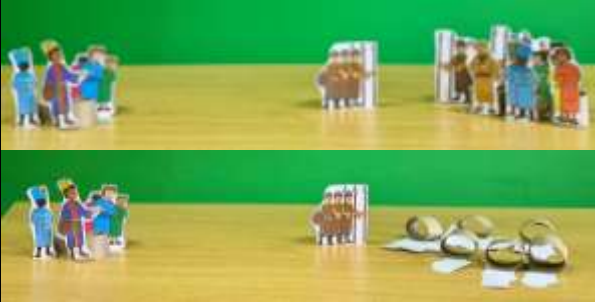
When David and his people finally arrived at their hiding place, the people were tired and afraid. They knew that God had helped David win against many enemies before but they said Absalom's army was way too big this time. Let's read Psalm 3 and see what David thought. Read Psalm 3:1-8 from the Bible.

¹ O LORD, I have so many enemies; so many are against me. So many are saying, "God will never rescue him!" ³ **But You, O LORD, are a shield around me; You are my glory, the one who holds my head high.** ⁴ I cried out to the LORD, and He answered me from His holy mountain. ⁵ I lay down and slept, yet I woke up in safety, for the LORD was watching over me. ⁶ I am not afraid of ten thousand enemies who surround me on every side. ⁷ Arise, O LORD! Rescue me, my God! Slap all my enemies in the face! Shatter the teeth of the wicked! ⁸ Victory comes from You, O LORD. May You bless Your people.

David, being a soldier, knew how important a shield was in battle. Do you think David's shield was going to be able to protect his people from Absalom's huge army? *No!* Do you think with God as their shield, He would protect them? *Yes!*

We know from our memory verse today that God is our shield. So who do you think won the battle? Absalom's huge army? Or David because God was his shield?

Yes, just like we would expect, God protected David and his people.



With God's help David sent his army to fight Absalom's army. Absalom's head got caught in the branches of the tree and he could not run away and so he was killed. David and all his people could go back to the city. God had saved them!

Do you know that David fought in over forty battles and yet he **never** lost a fight? Wow, how great is God! Thankfully we don't have to go and fight wars against people but God is our shield too.

Whether you struggle with fear, worry about a test, self-esteem, bad dreams, sadness, big things or small, God is your shield. He will guard you, protect you and help you. Wow, what a great God.



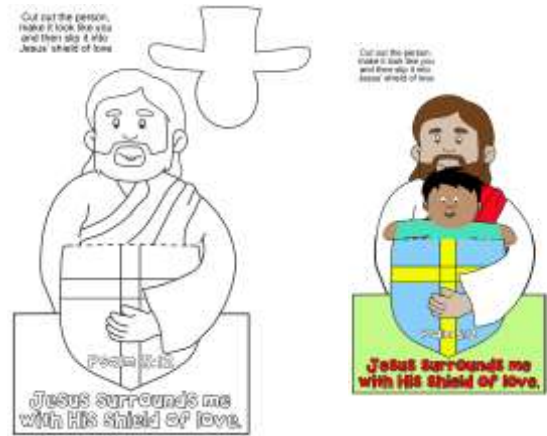
4) Review Questions

- Absalom's army was much bigger and stronger than David's, so how did David win the battle? *God helped and protected him. God is our shield.*
- When bad things happen to us, what must we do? *Just like David, we should also pray and ask God to be our shield and protect us. How great is our God that He is our shield!*

5) Crafts

Option 1: Jesus' shield of Love

Cut out the outline of the person, make it look like you and slip it into Jesus' shield of love.



Option 2: Shield

Let the children design their own shield. Encourage them to place it somewhere that will help remind them that God is always with them shielding them and protecting them.



Lesson 8: God is our Redeemer

Main focus for the lesson:

- A redeemer is someone who pays the cost so you can get back what you lost.
- God gave us His son to pay the cost of our sins so we can have life with Him forever.

1) Memory Verse

- Ephesians 1:7

“God is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Play a game of stuck in the mud.

A leader will chase the children. The child caught will stand still until a leader comes to them.

Once they say to the leader ***“God purchased my freedom by the blood of Jesus,”*** they may continue playing.

2) Hands On

Long ago, God made some special rules for families. We can read about them in the Old Testament books, Leviticus and Deuteronomy. The rules said that if someone in the family was in trouble or had a problem then a close relative must come and help them fix the problem. This family member was known as a "kinsman-redeemer".

Act out each of these to help the children understand what a kinsman-redeemer was.

SKIT 1

Problem: Family loses their land because they have no money.

Solution: A certain family member, the kinsman-redeemer, buys back the land for them.

SKIT 2

Problem: A woman's husband dies

Solution: A close family member, or kinsman-redeemer, marries her and shares his land and the things he owns with her and her children.

SKIT 3

Problem: A family is in danger

Solution: A kinsman-redeemer gives up his safety to come and protect them.

Can you see how God made these rules to help families? If someone lost their land a certain family member known as the kinsman-redeemer would buy back the land for them.

If a woman's husband died then a close family member, or kinsman-redeemer, would marry her. He would then share his land and the things he owned with her and her children.

If a family member was in danger, then the kinsman-redeemer would come and protect them.

Can you see that the kinsman redeemer helped the family member get back what they had lost? *They lost their land, their inheritance, their safety and peace and the redeemer got it back for them.*

And can you see who paid the cost for getting the lost thing back? The kinsman-redeemer paid for the land to be bought back. He shared what he had. And he put himself in danger to help protect them.

Let's look at Naomi and Ruth's story to learn more about a redeemer.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

Stick the three headings on the wall: "Problem" "Their solution" and "God's solution". Stick the pictures under the heading as you speak about each of them.

God included a whole book in the Bible called Ruth which tells us about Naomi, Ruth and Boaz's story. When we read this book we can see that there was a problem, they had a plan to fix it but God's way of solving the problem was so much better.

The problem

Problem one: Had to leave Bethlehem. Elimelech and Naomi and their two sons Mahlon and Kilion left their home in Bethlehem because there was a great famine. That means there was no food. They went to live in Moab where their sons then got married.



Problem two: Left all alone with nothing. About ten years later something terrible happened. First Naomi's husband died and then her two sons died too. Then one of the daughters-in-law decided to go back to her family, leaving Naomi in a strange country with no husband, no sons and only her daughter in law, Ruth, with her.

Their Solution



Their solution 1: Go to Bethlehem
Naomi and Ruth needed help. Naomi decided to return to her home country as she had heard that God had provided food for the people there again. Ruth said she would go with even though it was a long journey and far away from her family.

Their Solution 2: Work in the field
When they reached Bethlehem, Ruth went and followed some men who were picking grain in the fields and collected all the leftover pieces.



God's Solution



God's solution 1: Protect and provide.
Because Ruth was not from Bethlehem the owner of the field could have been very mean to her. But instead he let Ruth gather even more grain and gave her more food because he had heard how kind Ruth had been to Naomi.

God's solution 2: A kinsman redeemer.
That night Ruth told Naomi whose field she had worked in and how he had been so kind to her. Naomi was so excited! "He is a family redeemer!" she said. How great is God. As it turned out Ruth just happened to go to a relative's farm. And this relative was a family redeemer.



Boaz would save them from their problems and give them what they needed. He would buy Naomi's land they had lost when they left. He would marry Ruth so she could have a family. He would protect them and look after them. Boaz would pay the cost so they could get what they had lost. And that is exactly what happened!

Do you know that God has given you a redeemer too!

Our Problem - Sin



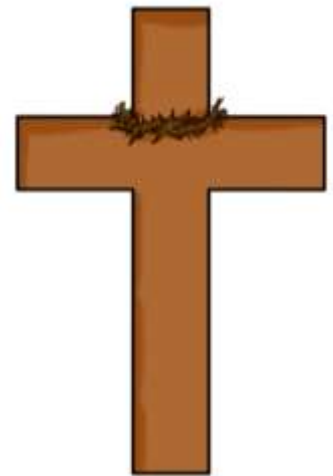
Anything that goes against God is called sin. Adam and Eve were the first people to sin and it meant they could not have life with God in the garden. The Bible tells us that we have all sinned. That means we all have a big problem. Sin means we have lost being part of God's Kingdom, we have lost inheritance and we have lost life with God.

Our Solution - Do good things

We may think we can fix the problem. Adam and Eve thought they could hide from God but that didn't help. We can try hard to be good people. We can even do things that please God like go to church, read the Bible or give money to the poor. While these are all good things, none of them can fix the problem of sin.

God's solution - Jesus

But we all have a kinsman redeemer. He is not just any family member, He is Jesus. Jesus paid the price for our sins. He took on our sin. And when He came alive again, our sins were forgiven. Because of Jesus, the problems that sin has caused are taken away. By believing in Jesus we can be with God and have life with him forever.



4) Review Questions

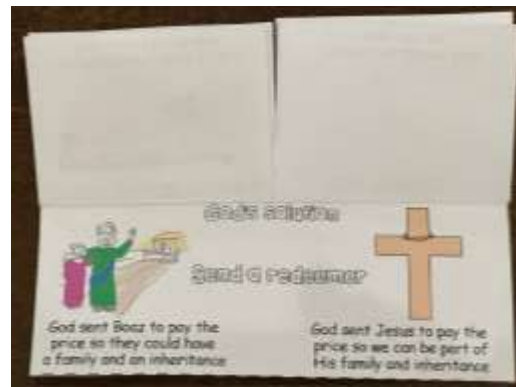
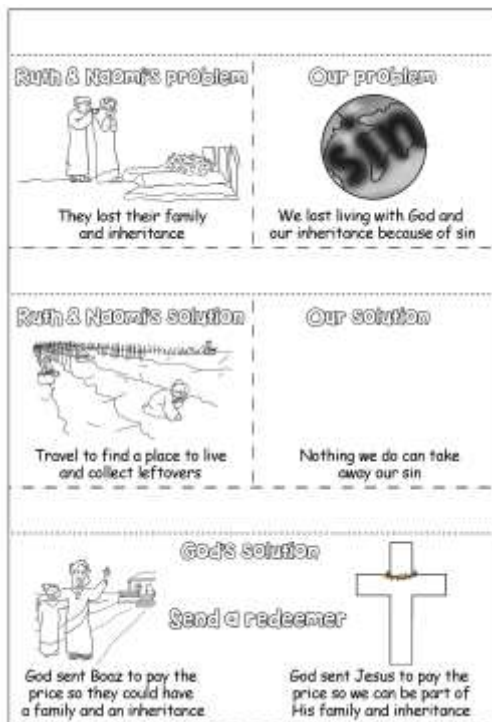
- What is a redeemer? *Someone who pays the cost to give you back what you have lost.*
- Who is our redeemer? *Jesus, He paid the cost for our sins by dying on the cross and gave us back life with God.*
- In Brazil there is a big statue of Jesus and its name is called Christ the Redeemer. The statue towers above the city of Rio. Jesus' arms are wide open. Do you know that Jesus stands today with His arms wide open? He wants to be our redeemer. Do you want to give your heart to Him today?



5) Crafts

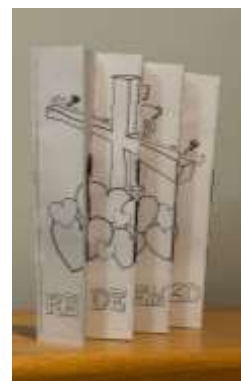
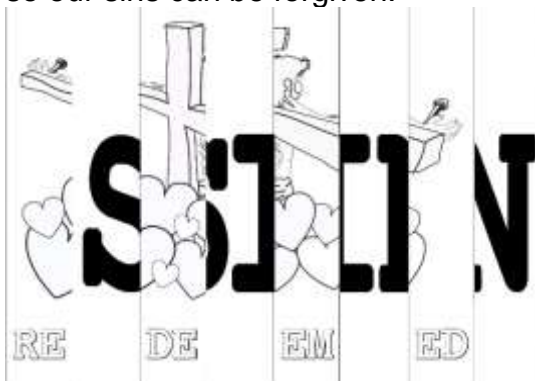
Option 1: Comparison flip book

Create a flip book that compares Ruth and Naomi's story to ours. Cut along the dashed lines. Fold along the dotted lines. And stick in the "glue" boxes to join them together.



Option 2: Jesus is our redeemer

Jesus has redeemed us from our sin. He did this by dying on the cross and coming alive again so our sins can be forgiven.



Lesson 9: God is our Provider and Guide

Main focus for the lesson:

- God was provider and guide to the Israelites and He is provider and guide to us too.
- God gave us Jesus, the Bible and the Holy Spirit. Now we have everything we need.

1) Memory Verse

- John 3:16 (NIV)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

- 2 Timothy 3:16 (NLT)

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”

- Acts 5:32 (NLT)

“We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to those who obey Him.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Use these three verses to help explain that God has given us Jesus, the Bible and the Holy Spirit. See the “hands on” of how to teach what God has given us.

There are so many times where God provided for His people and guided them. And so while we cannot find one verse that lists them all we can see that God is our provider and guide.

These three verses remind us of what God has given us and how He guides us. They cause us to say “Wow. How great is our God!”

John 3:16 Shows us that God provided us with a Saviour. He gave us His son, Jesus, so that our sins can be forgiven.

2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that God gave us His message. The Bible helps guide us to do what is right. The Bible also helps us know who God is.

Acts 5:32 shows us the Holy Spirit is given to us by God. God has provided a helper, a guide and power to do His good works.

2) Hands On

<p>Leader</p>	<p><i>Before puppet enters explain.</i></p> <p>Today we are going to learn another great thing about God. Did you know that God is your provider and guide? He gives you everything that you need.</p> <p>He gave His son Jesus so we could be forgiven, He gave us the Bible so we could know about Him and how to live and He gave us His Holy Spirit so that He could always be with us and guide us.</p> <p>Let's add some actions so we can remember that God has given us everything we need.</p> <p>God gave us Jesus (<i>Arms out like a cross</i>)</p> <p>God gave us the Bible (<i>Hands form a book</i>)</p> <p>God gave us the Holy Spirit (<i>Put your hands over your heart.</i>)</p> <p>God gives us everything we need. (<i>Make a big circle with your arms</i>)</p> <p><i>Do this a few times before the puppet enters all excited!</i></p>
<p>Puppet</p>	<p>I am so excited! Oh hello children. I have just found out God wants me to tell others about Him. How amazing is that?</p> <p>But first there are some things that I am going to need. I am going to need to do some mooouutthhhh exerrriiises. Baa Baa Booo</p>
<p>Leader</p>	<p>Uh why are you doing that?</p>
<p>Puppet</p>	<p>Well surely I am going to need a strong jaw to tell others about Jesus.</p>
<p>Leader</p>	<p>Actually the children and I were just speaking about how God gives us everything we need.</p> <p><i>Get the children to do the actions and say:</i></p> <p>God gave us Jesus (<i>Arms out like a cross</i>)</p> <p>God gave us the Bible (<i>Hands form a book</i>)</p> <p>God gave us the Holy Spirit (<i>Put your hands over your heart.</i>)</p> <p>God gives us everything we need. (<i>Make a big circle with your arms</i>)</p> <p><i>The puppet will get distracted and go behind the puppet stage to go and look up a word.</i></p> <p>Do you see God gives us everyth... uh where did you go?</p>
<p>Puppet</p>	<p><i>Pops up again.</i> If I am going to tell others, I will need to know all the big words. Tranpigstation. No wait. Transfigprobation. Ah man I forgot. Let me go check.</p>
<p>Leader</p>	<p>Wait, wait! You don't need to know fancy words to tell others about God. You just have to tell them about God's love.</p>
<p>Puppet</p>	<p>You're right. Hmm, what will I need to do that?</p>

Leader	Didn't you hear what the children said? Let's tell him again. <i>Children say and do the actions again.</i>
Puppet	<i>Still distracted puppet mumbles and goes behind the scenes again</i>
Leader	Now do you see you have everyth.... Hey where did you go?
Puppet	<i>Puppet comes up again and this time is all sad</i> Ah man I can't tell others, I don't have what I need to show them how great God is and how He loves us.
Leader	Oh silly, you have everything you need.
Puppet	I do?
Leader	The children have been trying to tell you all along. Listen and you will see. <i>Children say and do the actions again.</i> God gave us Jesus (<i>Arms out like a cross</i>) God gave us the Bible (<i>Hands form a book</i>) God gave us the Holy Spirit (<i>Put your hands over your heart.</i>) God gives us everything we need. (<i>Make a big circle with your arms</i>)
Puppet	Oh, I get it now! God has already given me everything I need to share His love with others. Children, will you say it again with me please? <i>Children say and do the actions again.</i> God gave us Jesus (<i>Arms out like a cross</i>) God gave us the Bible (<i>Hands form a book</i>) God gave us the Holy Spirit (<i>Put your hands over your heart.</i>) God gives us everything we need. (<i>Make a big circle with your arms</i>)
Leader	Exactly! So, are you ready to go tell others about God?
Puppet	Yes! Let's do it! Thank you, God, for giving us everything we need! (As the puppet exits) Hey, do you know how great God is, He gave us everything we need.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

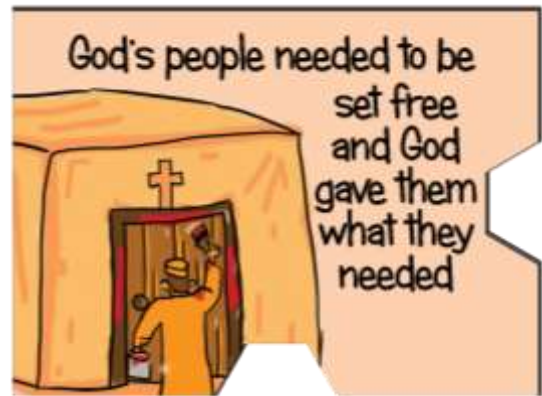
Use the two sets of puzzles to help the children see that God is our provider and guide. All the pieces in the puzzles join together to show how God guided and provided for the Israelites and how God guides and provides for us.



Set 1: God provided and guided the Israelites

First begin by showing how God provided and guided the Israelites on their journey to the land that God had promised.

1. The Israelites' journey starts with them as slaves in Egypt. They needed someone to free them. And God provided the only way for that to be possible. God told them to put the blood of a lamb on their doorposts. When they did this, God protected their first born sons and the Egyptians let them go. (Exodus 12)



2. Now that they were free they needed to know where to go. God was with them in a pillar of cloud during the day and a pillar of fire at night. God showed them where to go and where to camp. (Exodus 14:19-20)



3. A desert is not a place where you easily will find food and water so God gave the Israelites everything they needed for more than forty years! (Exodus 16 & 17)



4. The Israelites were not living like they should. They were sinning and making a lot of mistakes. God gave His people laws for them to follow. (Deuteronomy 30:16)



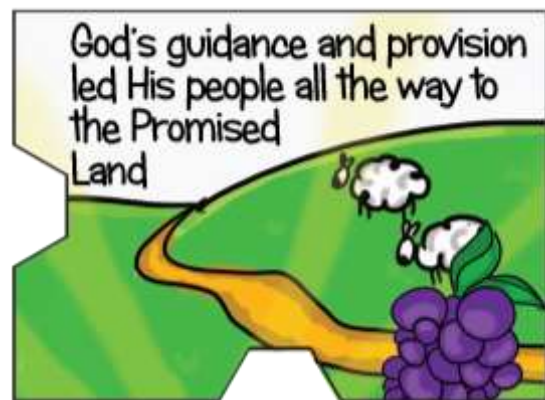
5. But the Israelites still sinned. At one time they had sinned badly. Fiery serpents appeared in their camp and bit many of them. They were dying. Moses, instructed by God, made a bronze snake on a pole. If bitten they had to look at the pole and they would be healed (Numbers 21:4-9)



6. There were no places to buy clothes or leather for sandals in the desert. God made it so that their clothes and shoes never wore out while they were there. (Deuteronomy 29:5)



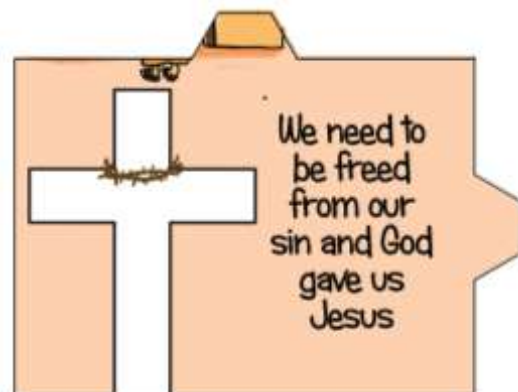
7. God's guiding and provision took His people all the way to the Promised Land. (Joshua 3)



Set 2: God provides and guides us

Then join the puzzle pieces to show that God provides and guides us too.

1. Our journey starts with us as slaves to sin. We need someone to free us. God provided the only way for that to be possible. The blood of Jesus sets us free when we ask Him to forgive us. (Revelation 1:5)



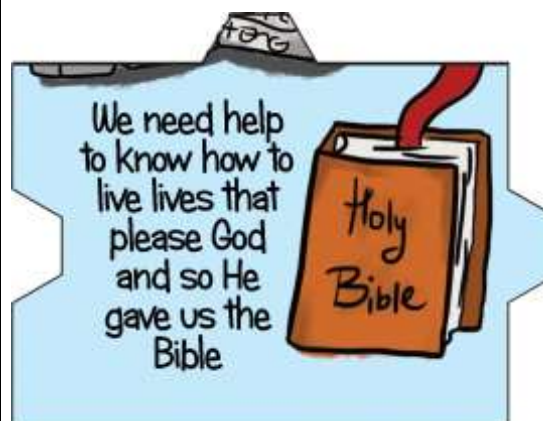
2. Now that we are free from sin we need someone to guide us. God gave us the Holy Spirit. He lives in us and leads us to live for Jesus.
(John 14:15)



3. And because He loves us, God will provide us with food for our bodies. (Matthew 6:25-26)



4. God knew if we don't have help we will make a lot of mistakes too, so God gave us the Bible. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)



5. We need healing from our sin and from our sickness. The Bible says that Jesus can heal us of everything because of what He went through on the cross. (Isaiah 53:5)



6. If God can make the Israelites clothes never wear out, do you think God will make sure we have clothes too? Yes, Jesus tells us because He loves us we will always have something to wear. (Matthew 6:28-30)



God promised the Israelites a great life in the Promised land.

God has made a promise to us too. By believing in Jesus we can have eternity with Him in Heaven. (John 14:6)



4) Review Questions

- What has God given us? *God gave us Jesus, who died for our sins so we can be forgiven. God gave us the Bible so we can know Jesus and know how to live lives that please Him. God gave us the Holy Spirit so He can be with us and guide us.*
- God provided for and guided the Israelites, even when they were grumbling. What does that tell you about God? *Wow, how great is our God that He would provide and guide us even when we don't deserve it.*
- How has God provided for you? How has God guided you? *Let the children give their personal testimony.*

5) Crafts

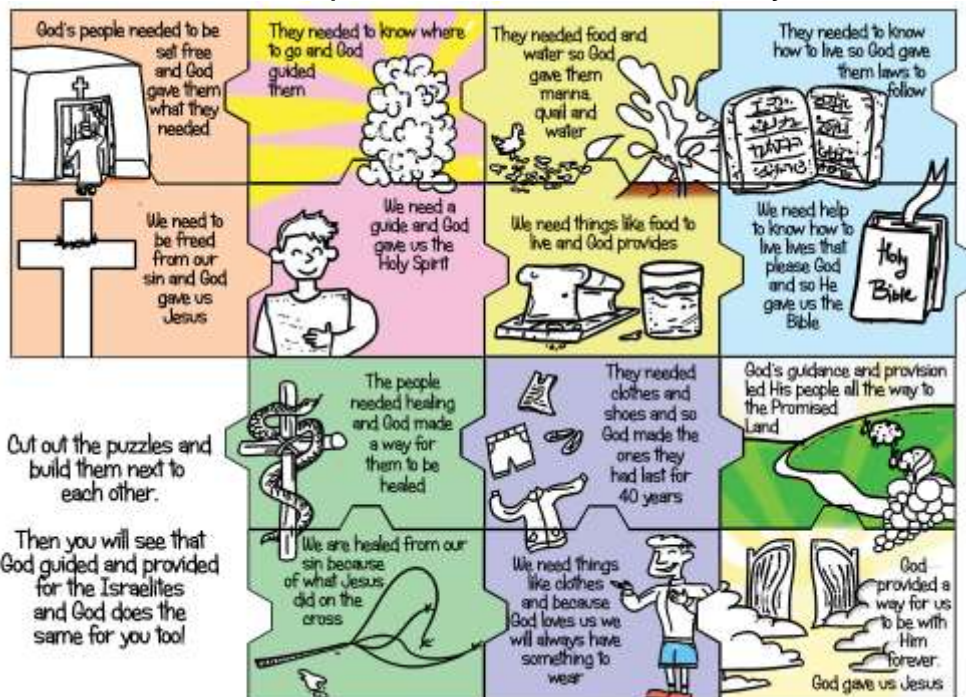
Option 1: Folding hands

Cut out the hands and fold them so that they open and close. When the hands are open they show everything God has given us. Children add in extra things that God has given them, such as their family, food, bed, school. Let each child have a turn to say, "Open my hands and you can see everything God has given me."



Option 2: Puzzle pieces

Children make their own set of puzzles as used in the story.



Lesson 10: God is Worthy of Worship

Main focus for the lesson:

- God is WOW – Worthy of Worship.
- Everything about God, who He is and what He has done, deserves worship.

1) Memory Verse

- Psalm 145:3

Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure His greatness.

Idea to teach the memory verse.

<https://youtu.be/wR7a-Uw08ic?si=iuBKU5wSWQzxfNUy> Play the song as you move from station to station in the lesson.

2) Hands On

Have measurement activities set out. The children could use rulers and tape measures to measure items. They could also use their hands, feet or steps to measure the size or distance of things.

When you gather as a group ask them to show you how big they think the following would measure. An ant. A worm. A hot dog. A bed. An elephant. A house.

Say “Wow that’s big. I don’t think there is anything bigger than that. Do you think there is?” Let them continue to name things. (*A whale. The whole world. The whole universe.*)

Those things are really big but do you know there is something so big that the Bible says no one can measure it. Do you know what it is?

Let’s read Psalm 145:3

Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! No one can measure His greatness.

We have learnt so much about God this series and each of these things makes us realise that He really is great. Think of how great you think He is then quadruple that and you are still not even close to how great God really is. His greatness is so big we cannot even measure it.

When we say something is great or amazing, what do we say: WOW!

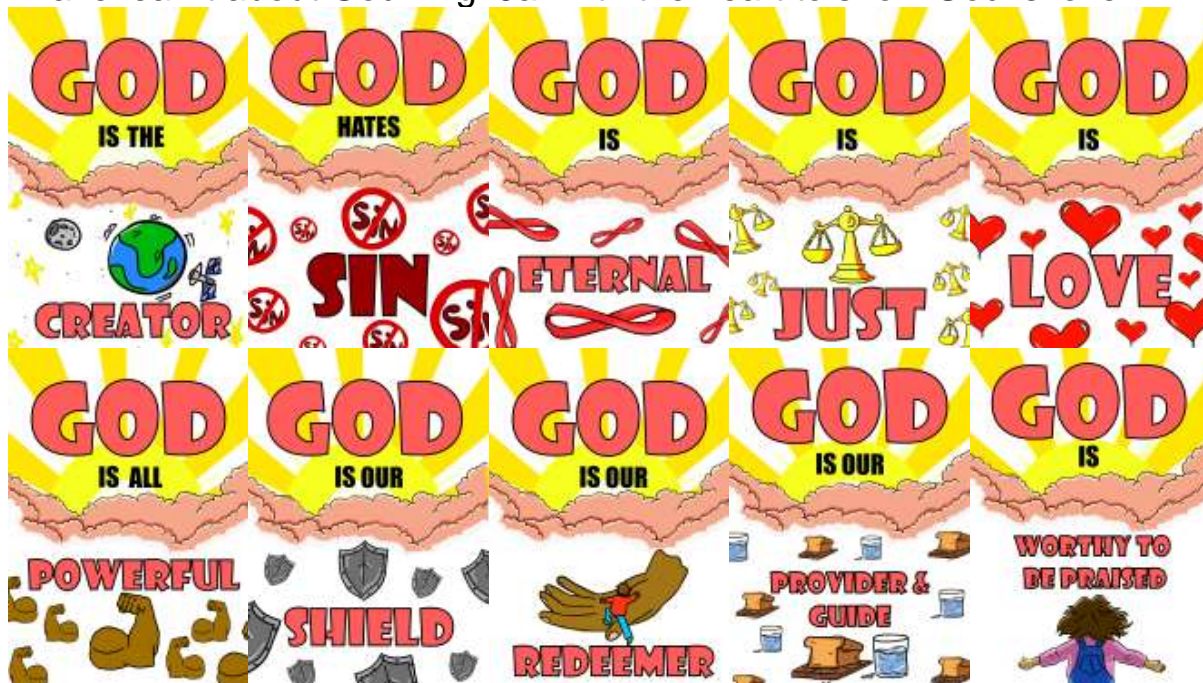
Show the children how three fingers at each side of the mouth spell “wow” And WOW helps us to remember that God is **Worthy Of Worship**.



3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Posters from each lesson stuck up around the venue.
- Music for the children to sing along to as they move from one poster to another. <https://youtu.be/wR7a-Uw08ic?si=iuBKU5wSWQzxfNUy>
- Any items or media used this series that will help them remember what they have learnt about God. E.g. Jar with the heart to show God is love.

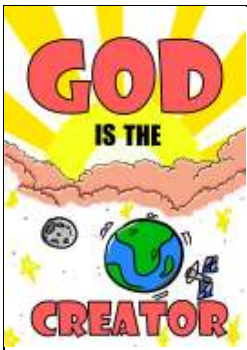


Divide the children into small groups. They will rotate to each poster where a leader will recap what has been learnt about God this series.

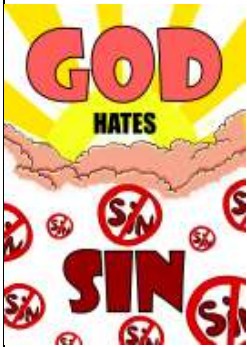
During the days of the Bible, the people in Jerusalem used to go up to the temple to praise God and on the way they would sing songs to remember why they should worship God. Here are two examples of those kinds of songs.

Come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. ²Let us come to Him with thanksgiving. Let us sing Psalms of praise to Him. ³For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods.
Psalm 95:1-3

Sing a new song to the LORD! Let the whole earth sing to the LORD!
²Sing to the LORD; praise His name. Each day proclaim the good news that He saves. Publish His glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things He does. ⁴Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! He is to be feared above all gods.
Psalm 96:1-4



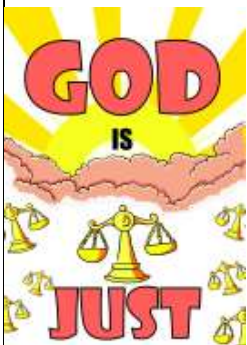
1. **God is our Creator:** There are many people who can make very nice things but without the things God created there would be nothing. Just think about all the planets and stars. Do you think people could make the universe? No way! And yet God made it just by speaking. Does that make you think “Wow! How great is our God.”? But remember God is even greater than that.



2. **God hates sin:** You may say but it's easy to hate things. But God hates sin so much that He promised a saviour would come to take away sin. You would think surely God would hate sinners if He hates sin that much! But He doesn't! He loves us so much that He sent His only son to die for **our** sin.



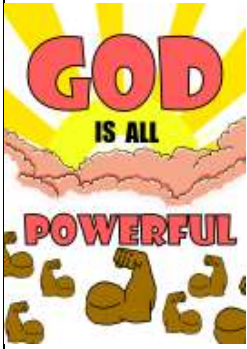
3. **He is Eternal:** Is God alive? Yes. From the very first second that the world was created was God alive? Yes. That should make us say “Wow! How great is God!” But He is even greater than that because God was alive even before there was time. God has always been alive and He is alive right now and what is even more amazing is that He will always be alive. God is even greater than we can imagine as there will never be a time where God isn't alive. That makes me want to worship Him.



4. **Good Judge:** A judge gets to decide if something is wrong or right (*Thumbs up or down*) and if there should be a punishment or reward. But even the best judges in the world won't always make the right choice, or give a fair punishment or reward. But when it comes to God, He has never made a wrong judgement and He never will get it wrong. God is the only perfect judge and He rules with fairness.



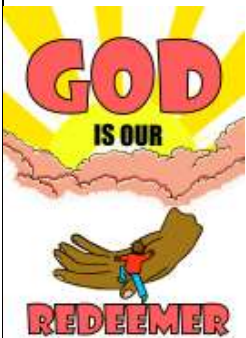
5. **God is love:** Sometimes we love people and other times we don't even like them, never mind love them. But God is love. It is not only what He does but who He is. God is so great that it would make sense if He didn't love people who sinned against Him or who didn't give Him the worship he deserves. But God is so much greater than we could measure. He loves us even while we were sinners and there is nothing that can separate us from His love.



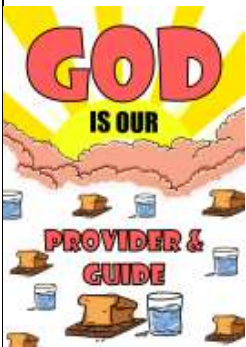
6. **God is all-powerful:** Do you know what I am thinking? Nope, but God does. Can you be here and there at the same time? Nope. But God can and is. Are you strong? But are you strong enough to do anything, like part the sea or calm a storm? God can and has. God's greatness is even greater than we can imagine. He not only knows my thoughts but knows and remembers everyone in the whole world's thoughts. He can be and is everywhere all the time. And God's power is unlimited. That means it never runs out and there is nothing He can't do. God really does deserve to be worshipped.



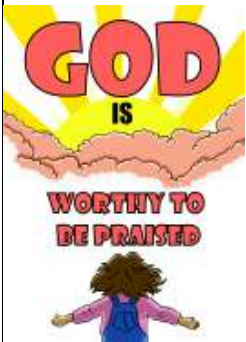
7. **God is our shield:** Everyone thought Absalom's army was way too big for David to win even with God's help. They didn't realize how great God is. They didn't know that God is our shield. David not only won that battle but he never lost a battle. Was it because David was great? No it was because God is our shield. And we can't even begin to know how great that shield is and just how much He has shielded us from.



8. **God is our Redeemer:** A redeemer is someone who saves or rescues someone else from a difficult situation, often by paying a price or making a sacrifice. God sent Jesus as our redeemer. Jesus paid the price for our biggest problem, which is our separation from God due to sin. He did this by dying on the cross and coming alive again. Because of Jesus our sins are forgiven and we can have eternal life with God.



9. **God is our Provider and Our Guide:** We all love getting things. Especially when someone is kind and is looking after us. But God not only provides for us but He also gives us what no one else can. God gave us Jesus, the Bible and the Holy Spirit. Because of God we have everything we need.



10. **Worthy of Worship:** God is bigger than we can imagine and in every way He is WOW. Our lives are lived to worship Him because He deserves it. We have so much to thank Him for and we should do this forever and ever and love Him with all our hearts.

4) Review Questions

- What are some of the things that we have learnt about God? (*Recap things learnt in the series*)
- When someone asks you WHO God is, what will you say? (*Perhaps they tell of a characteristic they have learnt.*)
- What is your favourite thing about God that you have learnt? He loves me

5) Crafts

Option 1: Worthy of worship instruments



Seal one side of an empty toilet roll with a milk bottle lid. Place some rice or beans inside and seal up the other side. Make sure the sides are well sealed up using tape. Decorate the toilet roll by sticking the cut out onto it. Now you can make your own song to worship God with the praise He deserves.



Option 2: Wow symmetry

Fold the paper along the dotted line and cut out along the solid lines. When you unfold the paper you will, now have the full word WOW. Fill in all the things you have learnt about God this term into the word.

