

Gospel Light™

JESUS FOR THE
NEXTGENERATION



GOSPELLIGHT.COM



Discover the Gospel Light difference.

Gospel Light Sunday school builds year upon year from birth through preteen with a proven scope and sequence and age-appropriate lessons. Children will journey through the Bible 5 times from preschool to preteen and our teacher training materials will help turn your volunteers into experts.

Known for strong Bible content and easy-to-teach lessons, Gospel Light curriculum also places special emphasis on the evangelism and discipleship of children and preteens during their formative years.

Try Gospel Light in your church!

AGES

Nursery to Preteen

FORMAT

Age graded classroom setting
Elementary large group

SCOPE & SEQUENCE

Nursery, Preschool & Preteen:
2 Years
Elementary: 4 Years

MAXIMUM LESSON TIME

2 hours



Gospel Light

WHY YOU'LL LOVE Gospel Light TOO!

“

Gospel Light is simple for my teachers to use. It is also thorough in Bible knowledge for my kids, and it captures their attention. My kids are never bored! My teachers are happy! My Savior is happy!

—SHERRY E.

”

“

We just loved the program. I think Baby Beginnings is a great way to bring the Word to toddlers and invite the nursery volunteers and parents into a loving, learning partnership.

—RAYLENE D.

”

“

The multiple activities in Gospel Light curriculum allow you to choose what is best to fit into your lesson plan. I could go on for hours about how highly I think of Gospel Light Elementary Curriculum.

—DEIDRE D.

”

“

What a great curriculum! The children had fun learning, and teachers had a lot of fun presenting the Bible truths to the children.

—LINDA S.

”



Preschool, Pre-K & K lessons are organized in 3 sections:

PLAY TO LEARN equips teachers to guide small groups of children in one or more fun, tactile activities like games, art, dramatic play, and blocks.

LISTEN TO LEARN provides large-group time where one teacher guides children to hear and understand the Bible story and Bible verse. This section includes a Scripture, song, prayer, and puppet time.

TALK TO LEARN helps teachers guide small groups of children to complete their TalkTime activity page and other activities that reinforce the lesson.

Elementary lessons are organized in 3 sections:

GET THINKING is a relaxed time for teachers to welcome kids and use a fun activity to help them think about that day's Big Idea!

GET GOD'S WORD is the heart and soul of the elementary lesson time! Using the Story Starter, the teacher draws kids in with a fun storytelling idea that builds participation as the story unfolds from God's Word.

GET TALKING helps kids discuss how they can apply the Bible to their lives. KidTalk™ Cards, Whiteboard Time, energetic games, and cool art activities will keep kids interacting with each other and with God!

Preteen lessons are organized in 3 sections:

SMALL GROUP DISCOVERY provides 1-2 fun activity options teachers can use to build a mentoring relationship with their students.

LARGE GROUP STUDY gets kids digging deep into God's Word and involved in the lesson.

SMALL GROUP APPLICATION is a small group discussion time focused on putting the Bible truths learned into everyday practice.



Matthew 3:1-17

Teaching the Bible one book at a time.

River Wonders

Get started Relating the lesson to the teacher.

Dear Teacher,

As a kid I used to love playing the game Simon Says. OK, maybe I still love the game! The goal of the leader is to be crafty enough to trick the players into making the wrong move so that they get called out. The goal of the players is to try to pay close attention to the leader and not to make the wrong move.

It is refreshing to know that Jesus, our leader, only wants the best for us. He is not trying to trick us or lead us into making the wrong move. As His followers, our challenge is to continue to grow closer to Him in all areas of our life. It doesn't matter if we are new Christians or have been serving Christ for many years, we are a work in progress. Matthew 22:37 challenges us to continue learning how to love the Lord with our whole life. My prayer for you this week is that as you continue to draw closer to our leader, Jesus, the kids you teach will also choose to make Jesus the leader in their lives.



Lisa Pham
Editor

Big Idea The main point of the lesson.



Big Idea

Following God means loving Him and doing what He wants me to do.

Action Plan

Evaluate the things I do, say and think, and plan ways to show love to God.

Action Plan Putting the lesson into practice.

Bible Verse

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
Matthew 22:37

Directing the teacher to Jesus in every lesson.

Connecting You to Jesus



Matthew 3 tells of Jesus' ministry debut. John announced that the King, the One God's people had been waiting for, was on the way. It was time to prepare for His coming by repenting, or turning from sin and doing what was right. It is the same for us today! When we repent of our sin and begin to do what is right, we welcome Jesus as our King. And continuing to obey Him is the sign of a true follower of Jesus the King.

LESSON MATERIALS



- The basics (see contents)
- Clock
- Get Thinking—index cards
- Story Starter—stuffed animal, honey, crackers, gummy worms, three paper bags
- Story props (see p. 49)
- Materials for Art or Game activity (see pp. 54-55)

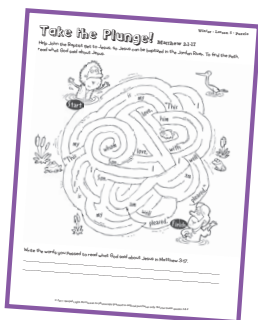
Check to see if you have all the necessary supplies.

Check out the Digital Lesson Extras for bonus skills, stories, activities and more!

Downloadable Lesson Extras!



1. Challenge your kids to learn the order of the first five books of the New Testament by playing What's Next?



2. Invite your kids to review the Bible story by completing "Take the Plunge!" puzzle.

3. Show "Lesson 5: Kitchen Time" on *Creative Clips DVD*. Today we are talking about following something way better than a peanut butter and jelly recipe! We're talking about following God.



Get Thinking

Ease into the lesson with an opening activity that all kids will want to try.

(10-15 minutes)

Welcome students and help them begin to think about today's Big Idea.

My Favorite Thing

On large sheets of paper print "Morning," "Afternoon" and "Evening." Tape papers around the room. Give students index cards on which to draw their favorite thing to do during that time of the day. Tape completed index cards on or near the appropriate papers.



Get to know the students in your class with these simple talking points.

Connect:

- When you have free time, what do you like to do?
- What are some other things that kids your age like to spend their time doing?
- Today we are going to talk about how the things we do, say and think can show our love for God.



Spark students interest right from the start.

Get God's Word



(15-25 minutes)

Students get the opportunity to not only hear the Bible story but become a part of it.

River Wonders

Tell the following story summary in your own words, asking discussion questions as indicated.

Story Starter

Prior to class, place a stuffed animal in a one paper bag, honey and crackers in another and gummy worms in another bag. (Note: Ask about food allergies or restrictions before selecting volunteers.)

YOU NEED

Bible for yourself and each student, Lesson 5 Poster, stuffed animal, honey, crackers, gummy worm, three paper bags, large sheet of paper, markers, clock.

Who is brave enough to put their hand in a bag and tell us what they feel? Volunteer places hand in bag with stuffed animal and tells what he or she feels before removing animal. **Who is brave enough to try a Bible-times snack?** Volunteer places hand in bag with cracker and honey, pulls out items and eats cracker with honey. **Who is brave enough to eat a BUG?** Volunteer places hand in bag with gummy worm, pulls out item and eats candy. **Our three brave volunteers did great! In today's story, we are going to talk about a man who wore furry clothes, ate honey AND ate real bugs. His name is in Matthew 3:1.** Help students find Matthew 3:1 in their Bibles and locate the name "John the Baptist."

Look for bold text to guide your conversation.

Get students participating in the story.



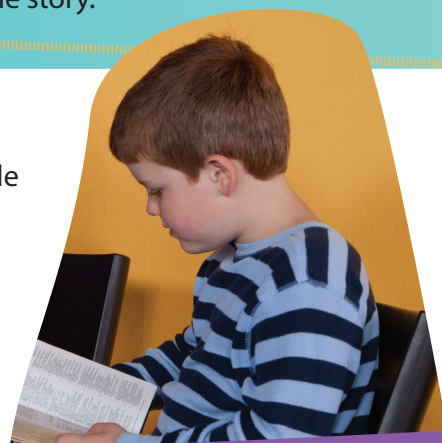
STORYTELLING IDEA

On a large sheet of paper, draw simple pictures as directed as you tell the story.

A Desert Prophet

Long before Jesus was born, God promised His people that someday He would send a Savior to show God's love and take the punishment for people's sins.

Many years later, God sent a message about this Savior to a priest, or leader in the Temple, named Zechariah. The angel said that Zechariah would



Teacher tips help volunteers stay on track.

TIP

Show Lesson 5 Poster and point out the different people who listened to John.

have a son named John who would tell people about the Savior God had promised to send.

Just as the angel had said, Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, did have a son. They named him John. When John grew up, he lived in the desert near the Jordan River.

What do you think might be hard about living in the desert?

The time came when God let him know it was time to do what he was born to do. That's when John began to preach in the desert. *Draw a desert with a sun in the sky.*

Soon, crowds of people were coming out to hear John. And what they saw was UNUSUAL! *Draw ears and eyes.*

John didn't dress like other people. He wore camel's-hair clothing (which to us would be like wearing a burlap sack instead of a T-shirt and jeans). John's clothes reminded people of the prophets God had sent in Old Testament times. He didn't EAT like other people, either. He simply ate what was in the desert—locusts (yes, grasshoppers!) and honey. *Draw a hairy jacket and bugs.*

One Amazing Message

John's looks were meant to get attention! But it wasn't so he'd get attention for himself. It was so people would hear and remember his message! John's message

Visual sample of the Bible storytelling option.





Teacher tips also suggest ways to engage kids.

was for people to stop doing wrong things and to start doing what God wants them to do.

John was telling everyone that God was about to do something BIG. They needed to be ready! People came to him to be baptized in the Jordan River to show that they were repenting, or turning away from their sins. **Draw a river.** John told them, "I baptize you with water. But One is coming after me who is more powerful than I am. I'm not even worthy to carry His shoes! HE will baptize you with God's Holy Spirit." **Who do you think John was talking about?**

TIP

Invite a volunteer to show map on page 340 in *What the Bible Is All About for Kids*. Point out information about the Jordan River.

One Perfect Messiah

One day, that very person was in the crowd. It was Jesus! Jesus came to be baptized. John was surprised, because OF COURSE Jesus didn't need to repent. He never sinned! But Jesus had a reason. Jesus wanted everyone to know that He was fully obeying God, His Father. So John agreed, and he baptized Jesus.

Draw a happy face and write "Jesus" underneath.



As Jesus came up out of the water, God's Spirit came down in the form of a dove! Then a voice said, "This is My Son, whom I love. I am very pleased with Him!" **Draw a conversation balloon with the word "Pleased" inside.**

This is the moment when the Bible story connects to the student's heart.

What do you think the people at the river that day said when they saw and heard what happened? How exciting it would have been! God's voice declared that His promised Son had come!

Wrap-Up

John may have looked different and eaten strange foods, but God used him to be the one to get people ready for Jesus. When we hear stories about Jesus, we can remember that He was glad to follow God and do what God wanted Him to do. We can follow God, too, in the things we do, say and think.

Action Plan

Evaluate the things I do, say and think, and plan ways to show love to God.

Show clock. When we see a clock, we can remember to show God that we love Him all the time. Read aloud Matthew 22:37. This week, let's try to show God we love Him in everything we do, say and think.

Use a familiar object to connect the lesson to their everyday life.

Connecting Kids to Jesus

Jesus is the Savior the people had been waiting for. To prepare for Jesus' coming, John told the people that they needed to stop doing wrong and start doing what was right. When we believe that Jesus is the Savior, stop doing wrong and start doing what is right, we show that we welcome Jesus as our King.

Every lesson points students to Jesus.



Get Talking

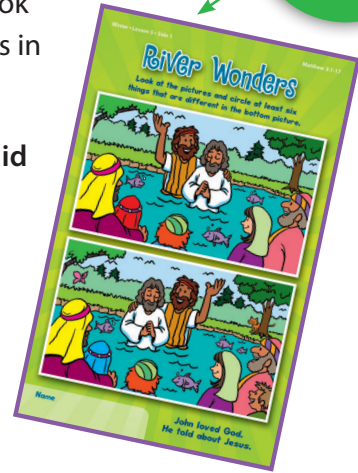


(25-30 minutes)

Side 1 of the KidTalk Cards helps students retell the Bible story.

Distribute Lesson 5 *Kid Talk Cards*. Invite students to look at the first picture on the card and circle the differences in the second picture on Side 1.

- **What was something unusual about John? What did he like to eat?**
- **What did John want people to know?** (Jesus was the One sent by God.)
- **Why do you think Jesus wanted to obey God?** (He wanted to follow God. He knew God's ways are the best ways.)



Whiteboard Time



On whiteboard, draw a simple hand shape, thought balloon and mouth shape. (Tip: Trace around your hand.) **These three pictures remind us of our actions (hand), our words (mouth) and our thoughts (thought balloon). What are some ways that our actions, words and thoughts can show that we love God when we're at home?** Students tell ideas. Repeat with other locations (school, sports field, playing with friends at a park, etc.).

Students look at Side 2 of *Kid Talk Cards* and read Bible verse together. Students read the sentences around each picture to find out what the kids are doing.

- **When is a good time for you to talk to God?** Refer to the clock picture. **The clock picture reminds us that we can show love for God at any time.** Tell students when you talk to God.
- **Why does helping someone show that you love God?** (Because I love God, I want to show His love. Helping someone is a way to show I'm thankful for God's love.)
- **What is something you can do this week to show your love for God?** (Help my little sister. Talk to Him. Invite a friend to church.)

Engage your kinesthetic learners though the interactive discussion time.

Side 2 of the KidTalk Cards challenges the student to think of ways to put the lesson into action.

Prayer



Creative prayer options.

Invite volunteers to tell prayer requests as you write them on the whiteboard. Then pray with students about the needs and concerns they mention. The start of the New Year is the perfect time to begin a prayer journal with your group.

Students express what they've learned through art.

Art

Give each student one set of Do, Say, Think Cards. Students decorate cards and draw pictures of ways they can show God they love Him this week (help mom carry groceries, say "I love you" to a family member, make a card for someone, etc.). Give students envelopes. Students seal their envelopes and then cut off one of the short ends to make pockets. Students place decorated cards in the pocket. Give each student a magnet with adhesive backing to attach to the back of his or her pocket. Students take pockets home to attach to refrigerator door.

YOU NEED

Bibles; (downloadable) Do, Say, Think Cards; markers; envelopes; scissors; adhesive magnets.

Connect: We can remember to show God we love Him by the things we do, say and think. When you get home, stick your pocket on your refrigerator door. Pull out a card every day to remind you of a way to show love for God.

TIP

First- and second-graders are excited to write things themselves, but they may need help. Other students may still be nervous about their writing skills, so make sure that you allow students to choose to either write or draw.



Students love being active and participating in games to review the lesson.

Game

Cut blue, yellow and red paper into strips and hide them around the room. At your signal, students quickly find a color strip and return to the group. Students who found a blue paper tell a way that they can do something to show their love for God. Students with yellow strips tell a way they can say something that shows their love for God. Students with red strips tell how their thoughts can show their love for God. Repeat by inviting students to close their eyes while you hide the strips of paper again.

YOU NEED

Blue, yellow and red paper; scissors.

Connect: Every day your words, actions and thoughts can show your love for God. While playing this game, you came up with some great ways to follow God this week! I can't wait to find out next week how you were able to put your ideas into action.

Get Going

Direct students to look again at Side 2 of their *Kid Talk Cards*. As we listen to this song, think about ways that you can remember to show your love for God in what you do, say and think. Play "J-E-S-U-S" (track 3 on *Worship CD*), inviting students to listen or sing along. Distribute Lesson 5 *Family Fridge Fun* papers as students leave.

Auditory students learn best with discussion and music. Play a song relating to the Big Idea before students leave.



Family Fridge Fun

Big Idea

Following God means loving Him and doing what He wants me to do.

Check out Matthew 3:1-17. **Who was Jesus following? Who do you want to follow?**

Connecting to Jesus

Jesus is the Savior the people had been waiting for. To prepare for Jesus' coming, John told the people that they needed to stop doing wrong and start doing what was right. When we believe that Jesus is the Savior, stop doing wrong, and start doing what is right, we show that we welcome Jesus as our King.

Just for Fun

Play a quick game of "What Time Is It?" Point to a number on the clock (or call out a number) and invite family members to tell what they usually do at that time of day. (Include times like 3 in the morning, just for fun!) Then ask, "What could you do, say or think to show love for God at 10 in the morning? At 9 at night?" We can follow God and show our love for Him all the time!



Bible Verse

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Matthew 22:37

Use a pencil to write the words of the Bible verse on a piece of paper. Read the words aloud together, and then erase "the," "your" and "all" each time it appears.

Read the verse again. Then begin to erase more words, repeating the verse each time. Can you say the verse together when all the words are erased?



Get into the Bible

- Read Psalm 28:7. **Why did David love God? What did he do to show love for God? Tell or sing your favorite song of praise to God!**
- Read Psalm 119:34. **How can you obey God's commands with all your heart? Think of a time you can obey God and ask for His help.**
- Read John 14:15,23-24. **If we love Jesus, what will we do? What's a way you can obey God today?**

Take It Home

Illegal to photocopy or reproduce this material in any form.

Add more flexibility and fun with these resource options.



PRINT



MUSIC



VIDEO



DIGITAL
DOWNLOAD

Teacher's Classroom Kits

Includes everything you need for 1 teacher and 10 students! Teacher guide, visual resources, student activity pages and take home pages. All in one convenient kit.

Teacher Guides

Easy-to-teach Bible lessons with teacher training tips and more. Elementary guides also include additional content found on the free Digital Lesson Extras Download.

Student Pages

Make Bible study fun! Activities are specifically designed for each age level, helping kids dig into the Word and make relevant connections to their lives.

Take-Homes

Build the church-home connection with stories and activities that reinforce each week's lesson.

Visual Resources

Full-color posters, games, and fun activities in 11" x 17" or 11" x 22" (varies by age level).

Elementary Music and Video

Elementary ages will sing and laugh with fresh music and hilarious skits found on the optional CD and DVD add-ons. Videos are produced by the very funny folks at Digital Felt Productions.