

SECTION
1.1

God Is Trustworthy



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Trusty Structure

What You'll Need: Tables, gumdrop candy or marshmallows (avoid any allergies in your group), toothpicks, spiral notebook, plastic cup, pitcher, water, paper towels

(Leader's Note: Larger clubs may choose to have only a few kids do this at the front of the room while others watch, or have the kids divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.)

PREP: Set up one or two tables in the front of the classroom. Place the candy or marshmallows, toothpicks, notebooks, and plastic cup on the table. Fill the pitcher with water and place on the table. Place the paper towels nearby.

STEP 1: Have kids work in groups of two or three. Give each pair or group 20 to 30 toothpicks and 30 to 40 gumdrops or marshmallows. Give groups two minutes to build a structure that will support the weight of a notebook and a plastic cup with water.

STEP 2: After two minutes, have leaders test the structures by placing a notebook on them and then placing a cup on the notebook. For the structures that stand, slowly add water to each cup to test the structure's reliability.

After you have completed the activity, ask the following questions:

- What challenges did you face during this activity?
- How would you rate the trustworthiness of your structures?
- Would you trust any of these structures to hold a two liter of your favorite soda? Why or why not?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- When we discover that something has let us down or is no longer reliable, we sometimes get discouraged or have a hard time wanting to use that item again.
- Things in this world will fall apart or go bad. People will make mistakes and sometimes let us down.

- Only God is completely trustworthy. He deserves our trust and confidence.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is trustworthy.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Which Would You Trust?

What You'll Need: Nothing

PREP: Nothing

STEP 1: Ask each of the following questions and if space allows, consider having children answer the question by going to a side of the room based on their response. For example, left side of the room is "sushi" and right side of the room is "gum."

Would you rather eat sushi 10 days past its expiration date or chew pre-chewed gum found on a New York City subway?

Would you rather drink a tablespoon of pond water or 10-year-old bottle of expired soda?

Would you rather eat sardines every day for one week or always use the same fork, spoon, and knife used by every person in a local restaurant—without being washed?

Would you rather cross an ocean in an inflatable raft or fly across the continent in an airplane that had been in a crash?

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- Why would it be hard to trust eating, drinking, or traveling in these things?
- Why do these choices gross us out or make us nervous when we think about them?
- What are some reasons we wouldn't trust eating, drinking, or using these items?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- When we believe something will make us sick or that something is unreliable to use, we cannot trust it. We want to avoid those item at all costs.
- Things in this world will fall apart or go bad, and we have a hard time trusting something that we think could cause us harm or put us in a difficult situation.
- Only God is completely trustworthy. He deserves our trust and confidence.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is trustworthy.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: God's Trustworthiness in Dark Times

What You'll Need: Bible

(Leader's Note: Larger clubs may choose to have only a few kids do this at the front of the class while others watch, or have the kids divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.)

PREP: Ahead of time, ask two leaders to be ready to summarize the following true stories from the Bible, highlighting the fact that God is trustworthy: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3), and David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17).

STEP 1: Divide the kids into two groups (split the room in half). Assign each group to one of the leaders mentioned above. Have that leader briefly share the true story from the Bible of how the individuals in the story trusted God during their difficult times. Then have the kids work together to act out the story.

STEP 2: After three minutes, have each group act out the story in front of the other group. Encourage the other group to try to guess how God was trustworthy in each scenario.

Share these concepts:

- The people in each of these stories faced a scary situation that they had no control over. Their lives were in danger, and there was no other person around them who would help.
- They all chose to trust in God. They believed that no matter what the outcome would be, God was with them. They knew they could trust in Him.
- God proved He is trustworthy. God was with them through their trials, and they all had peace knowing that God would never leave them.

STEP 3: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Psalm 9:10. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these concepts:

- Our memory verse this week reminds us that we must know God in order to put our trust in Him. We must have a relationship with Him by trusting in Jesus as our Savior.

- We have to choose to trust God, even when it isn't easy. Trusting God means that we believe God is completely reliable and worthy of our trust.
- We can take comfort in knowing that God will not forsake, or leave forever, those who seek after Him. That means that if we choose to trust in God and follow Him, He will always be with us.

Step 4: Tell kids that we can praise God for being trustworthy. Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Promises of Trust

What You'll Need: Bibles, blank paper, markers or colored pencils

(Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.)

PREP: Gather four Bibles and bookmark each Bible to one of the following passages: Psalm 18:2, Psalm 46:1, Psalm 62:8, Isaiah 26:4.

STEP 1: Distribute blank paper and markers or colored pencils to each kid. Give kids one minute to write or draw a picture of something in their lives that they are struggling with (e.g., friendships at school, getting along with their siblings or their parents, a sickness in their family). When they are done, have them turn their pages over.

STEP 2: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Psalm 9:10. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these concepts:

- Our memory verse this week reminds us that we must know God to put our trust in Him. We must have a relationship with Him by trusting in Jesus as our Savior.
- We should choose to trust God, even when it isn't easy. Trusting God means that we believe God is completely reliable and worthy of our trust.
- We can take comfort in knowing that God will not forsake, or leave forever, those who seek after Him. That means that if we choose to trust in God and follow Him, He will always be with us..

STEP 3: Ask for four volunteers who are comfortable reading out loud. Give each of them one of the bookmarked Bibles. On the back of their paper, encourage kids to create a mural of the descriptions of God that they hear in the following verses. Ask the first kid to read the verse aloud. Then ask the following questions:

- How is God described in this verse? (Be ready to explain any terms they kids may not be familiar with.)
- How does that description of God cause you to want to trust Him?

STEP 4: Continue the activity until each verse has been read. Then ask kids to reveal their murals to one another and explain their drawings.

Share these key concepts:

- These verses show us how powerful and mighty our great God is.
- No matter what situations we may face, we can trust our mighty God to always be with us.
- We can have peace knowing that our God is completely reliable to encourage and strengthen us each day.

STEP 5: Have kids turn their papers back over. Encourage kids to pray quietly, thanking God that He is trustworthy and asking Him to be with them through thier struggle. After several moments, pray and ask God to give each of the kids His promised peace in these situations.

STEP 6: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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God Is Loving



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Displays of Love

What You'll Need: Laundry basket, clothes, board game or video game or controller, plastic tableware, table, two chairs, trash can, doll

PREP: Ask two leaders to improvise several different scenarios.

Set up a table and two tables in front of the class. Place the props listed above nearby.

STEP 1: Ask the two leaders you have chosen to stand near the table. As time allows, read several of the following scenarios out loud, and give the leaders 30 seconds to improvise the scenarios, using the props provided, as kids who do not display love.

Your mom asks you to take out the trash for the THIRD time.

Your dad reminds you AGAIN to clean your room and put your laundry in the basket.

Your dad interrupts your free time to have you help him with yard work.

Your mom asks you to watch your crying baby cousin for a few minutes.

It's your sister's turn to set the table, but she is busy doing homework, so you have to do it.

STEP 2: After two minutes, ask a few children to repeat two or three scenarios, this time displaying love. Then ask the following questions:

- How did a loving attitude change the perspective of the person in the scenario?
- What are other ways we demonstrate love?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Loving someone else is often displayed as a selfless act on our part.
- There are times when it is hard to show love to someone, especially if we are busy or if they have hurt us or let us down.

- God displayed His love for us in a big way, even when we were broken and helpless and didn't deserve it. He always displays His love for us — it is constant.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is loving.

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| *God Is Loving**Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)***Option 2: Everyone Loves a Party**

What You'll Need: Party supplies and decorations, red construction paper, scissors, tape, markers, snacks, drinks, table, plastic tableware, napkins

PREP: Decorate your classroom with party supplies that represent love (e.g., hearts, red balloons). Prepare simple snacks and drinks.

Make hearts out of red construction paper, cut them out, and lay them on a table with the tape and markers nearby.

STEP 1: Welcome kids to the "Everyone Loves a Party" celebration. As kids enjoy the snacks, ask them to write on a heart something someone did to show them love. After they have written their responses, encourage them to tape the hearts around the room.

STEP 2: After three minutes, read some of the responses.

Then ask the following questions:

- How do these actions display love?
- What are some other ways people demonstrate love?
- Why is it sometimes hard to show someone we love them?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- There are different types of love. We love and care about our friends, but probably not in the same way we love or care about our family.
- There are times when it is hard to love someone, especially if they have hurt us or let us down.
- God's love for us is constant. There will never be a time when He doesn't love us.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is loving.

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God Is Loving



Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Love in Action

What You'll Need: Bible

PREP: Nothing

STEP 1: Play a game to help your kids learn about God's limitless, amazing love. Have kids spread out and stand against one wall in the classroom. Open your Bible and read or recite this week's memory verses, Romans 8:38-39, using the following motions for the words:

Death (Make a grotesque face with eyes closed.)

Life (Open eyes wide.)

Angels (Flap arms like wings.)

Rulers (Mimic a crown.)

Things present (Jump in place.)

Things to come (Jump two steps forward.)

Powers (Make a "strong man" motion.)

Height (Try to touch the ceiling.)

Depth (Drop down to the floor.)

Have kids repeat the verses two times with you slowly so that they can learn the actions of the verses.

STEP 2: Call out words from the list above in random order, getting faster and faster each time you say a word or phrase.

STEP 3: After two or three minutes, have kids repeat the verses together with the motions.

Share these key concepts:

- From the beginning, God established a loving, personal relationship with the first man and woman, Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:27-3:8).
- When Adam and Eve sinned, their relationship with God was broken, and sin also breaks our relationship with God (Romans 5:12).
- God's greatest display of love to us was sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and take the punishment for sin in our place (Romans 5:8).

- If we trust in Jesus as Savior, our relationship with God is restored. Nothing can separate us from God's perfect, amazing love (Romans 8:38-39).

Step 4: Give kids an opportunity to talk with a leader if they have questions about fixing their relationship with God.

Step 5: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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God Is Loving



Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: No Separation From God's Love

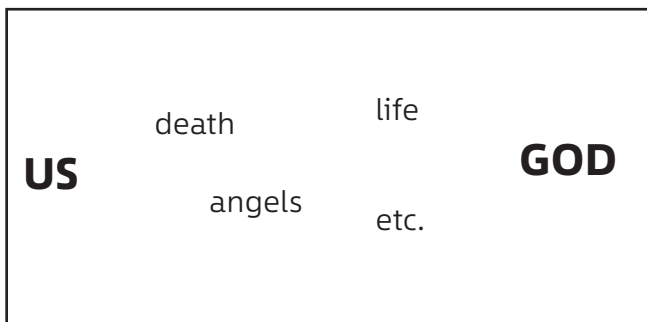
What You'll Need: Bible bookmarked to Romans 5:8, paper, tape, easel, white board or posterboard, markers

(Leader's Note: Larger clubs may choose to have only a few kids do this at the front of the room while others watch, or have the kids divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.)

PREP: Ahead of time, write each of the following words on a piece of paper:

Death, Life, Angels, Rulers, Things Present, Things to Come, Powers, Height, Depth

Write, "Us," and "God," on opposite sides of the whiteboard. Tape the words on the board so that the words are in the middle, as seen below.



STEP 1: Ask: When is it hard to love someone? Record the responses on the board.

Share these key concepts:

- There are times when it is hard to love someone, especially if they have hurt us or let us down.
- Loving someone else is often displayed as a selfless act on our part.

STEP 2: Ask a volunteer to read Romans 5:8.

Share these key concepts:

- From the beginning, God established a loving, personal relationship with the first man and woman, Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:27-3:8).

- When Adam and Eve sinned, their relationship with God was broken, and sin also breaks our relationship with God (Romans 5:12).
- God's greatest display of love to us was sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and take the punishment for sin in our place (Romans 5:8).

Help kids to see that even though we struggle to love others, God loved us even when we were sinners who didn't deserve His love.

STEP 3: Explain that once we receive Jesus as Savior, our relationship with God is restored forever. We are welcomed into His family, and He becomes our Father. His love for us is unending and unconditional.

STEP 4: Open your Bible and read or recite this week's memory verses, Romans 8:38-39. Repeat the verse together, pausing after each word or phrase that describes something that cannot separate us from God's love. As you come to each word or phrase, have a volunteer reference the whiteboard with the words on it and have kids go up and remove the corresponding word.

Share these key concepts:

- God's love for us goes above and beyond our sin. Even when we do things that make it hard for others to love us, God's love is still complete and sure.
- There is Nothing. NOTHING that we could ever do that would stop God from loving us.
- There is nothing or NO ONE who could ever stop God from loving us.
- God's love is guaranteed through Jesus Christ.

STEP 5: Ask two volunteers, leaders or kids, to pray and praise God for His amazing love that He has for us.

STEP 6: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

SECTION 1.3

God Is Faithful



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: I Promise . . .

What You'll Need: Candy

NOTE: If you have children with dietary restrictions in group, consider using a small trinket such as party favor (spinning top, tattoo, pencil, etc.) instead.

PREP: Purchase individually wrapped candy, enough for one piece for each kid.

STEP 1: Tell the kids that you have been nominated as one of the best Awana leaders of the year. Because of your nomination, you promise that . . .

You will give each of them a piece of candy.

You will give each of them an A+ this year in math.

You will give each of them a million dollars.

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- Which of these promises could I keep?
- Which of these promises would it be impossible for me to keep? Why?
- Do you think you can trust me to keep any of these promises?

STEP 3: Give each kid a piece of candy. Then share these key concepts:

- Some people make promises that they cannot keep.
- Sometimes it's hard to trust others if we are afraid they will not keep their promises they make to us.
- God has made us promises in the Bible, and God will keep EVERY promise that He makes because our God is always faithful.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is faithful.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)
Option 2: Measure the Distance

What You'll Need: Measuring tools, (e.g., 12-inch ruler, yard stick, measuring tape, etc.), pens or pencils, paper

PREP: Gather various measuring tools. Place them near the front of the room.

STEP 1: Divide the kids into groups of two or three. Give each group a pen or pencil, paper, and a measuring tool. Encourage them to measure the following distances without leaving the room:

- One wall in the classroom to the opposite wall.
- The floor to the ceiling of the classroom.
- The ground to the roof of the building. Kids will have to go outside to do this.

STEP 2: After two minutes, have the pairs or groups share their results. Ask the following questions:

- Which of the measuring tools was easiest to use?
- Which of these measurements were you able to accurately measure?
- Why were some of the measurements difficult or impossible to take?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- We can use scientific measurements to measure distance around the room, even from the ground to heights in our atmosphere and beyond. Yet humans are still limited in our understanding of great distances to our galaxy and beyond.
- Just as we cannot begin to understand the distances between us and the farthest galaxies, we will never be able to measure God's faithfulness. Psalm 36:5 says that God's faithfulness reaches to the skies. This is further than we could measure even with scientific measurements.
- Because God is faithful, He will always keep His promises.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is faithful.

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God Is Faithful



Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: God's Faithful Promises

What You'll Need: Four Bibles, T&T handbooks, (Optional: CD player, computer or smartphone)

PREP: Gather four Bibles and bookmark each Bible to one of the following references: Genesis 8:20-22, Genesis 9:9-13, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 John 1:9. Optional, Choose a favorite song about God's faithfulness and be prepared to sing it with your group.

Optional: Use a CD and CD player to play the song, or download the song and play it through your computer or smartphone.

STEP 1: Ask: What are some promises that a parent might say to their child?

Explain to kids that some promises are easy to keep, but because we are human, we will make mistakes. That means that we cannot always keep the promises that we make.

STEP 2: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Deuteronomy 7:9. Repeat the verse slowly, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- Because God is God, He will always keep His covenant, or promises, that He makes.
- God will ALWAYS keep His promises and His steadfast love to those who love and obey Him.
- God will faithfully keep His promises for generations and generations.

STEP 3: Explain to kids that God has given us many different promises in the Bible. Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 8:20-22. Encourage kids to identify the promise God made in these verses. (Seasons would continue in their pattern.)

Ask another volunteer to read Genesis 9:9-13. Encourage kids to identify the promise God made in these verses. (God promised to never again flood the whole earth.)

Step 4: Share these key concepts:

- There has never been a world-wide flood since the time of Noah.
- The seasons always continue in their order: spring, summer, fall, and winter. We can plan accordingly based on the seasons.

Step 5: Tell kids that we can trust that God is faithful because of the promises in the Bible that have come true. This means that we can trust God to be faithful to keep the promises that He has made to you and to me.

Have kids turn to section 1.3 in their handbooks. Encourage volunteers to read the following verses: 1 John 1:9 and 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Ask kids to identify the ways that God keeps His promises to us today. (He forgives our sin, He is with us when we are tempted.)

Share these key concepts:

- God is still faithful, even when we make mistakes.
- We can always trust Him, no matter what.
- We show our faithfulness to God when we seek after Him and follow His plan for our lives.

Step 6: Tell kids that we can praise God for being faithful. End the lesson by singing together a song about God's faithfulness (e.g., "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" or "You Are Faithful.").

Step 7: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

SECTION 1.3

God Is Faithful



Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Snapshots of a Faithful God

What You'll Need: Bibles, blank card stock paper: pens, colored pencils, or markers

(Leader's Note: Larger clubs may divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.)

PREP: Ask several leaders to be ready to share (for up to one minute only) with the kids the following examples of God's faithfulness in the life of Abraham, highlighting God's promises to Abraham: God leading Abraham to a new land (Genesis 12:1-3); God promising Abraham a son (Genesis 15:5-6); God giving Abraham and Sarah a baby when they were old (Genesis 21:1-3). Create three "God Is Faithful" 8.5"x11" card stock pages to use in the group comic strip.

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Deuteronomy 7:9. Read the verse again slowly, after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- Because God is God, He will always keep His covenant, or His promises, that He makes.
- God will ALWAYS keep His promises, and His steadfast love to those who love and obey Him.
- God will faithfully keep His promises for generations and generations.

STEP 2: Divide the kids into three groups. Give each group a piece of card stock paper, pens or pencils, and colored pencils or markers. Ask the leaders in each group to briefly summarize their verses and highlight God's promises to Abraham in those passages. Encourage the kids in each group to work together to draw snapshots of God's promises to Abraham.

STEP 3: After five minutes, ask the first group (Genesis 12:1-3) to share their snapshots.

Share these key concepts:

- God called Abraham away from his family and his homeland.
- Abraham obeyed God, and God blessed Abraham with great wealth and land.

After the group shares their snapshot, have them post their picture at the front of the room, followed by a "God Is Faithful" card stock page.

STEP 4: Ask the second group (Genesis 15:5-6) to share their snapshots.

Share these key concepts:

- God promised Abraham that many nations would come from Abraham's own children.
- Even though Abraham did not have any children yet, he believed God would keep His promises.

After the group shares their snapshot, have them post their picture at the front of the room, followed by a "God Is Faithful" card stock page.

STEP 5: Ask the third group (Genesis 21:1-3) to share their snapshots.

Share these key concepts:

- Years passed, and Abraham doubted God's Word. Yet even when He disobeyed, God was still faithful to Abraham. When Abraham and Sarah were very, very old, God gave them a son, Isaac.
- From Isaac came the Israelite nation. This nation was God's special nation, and through the generations of this nation, Jesus came.
- God kept His promise to Abraham, even though it took a long, long time.
- When we see that God kept His promises to people in the Bible, we can trust that He will be faithful and keep His promises to us.

After the group shares their snapshot, have them post their picture at the front of the room, followed by the final "God Is Faithful" card stock page.

STEP 6: Follow up with the Lesson Application and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.



God Is Faithful



SECTION

1.4

God Is Patient



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Plastic-Wrapped Patience

What You'll Need: Plastic wrap, inexpensive prizes

(Leader's Note: Larger clubs may choose to have only a few kids do this at the front of the room while others watch, or have the kids divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.)

PREP: Purchase inexpensive prizes (e.g., candy bars, gum, flashlights, carabiners, small container of slime, fast food gift card, Awana shares, etc.). Plan for one or two prizes per kid. Make a ball out of the plastic wrap and prizes. Wad a one-foot piece of plastic wrap into a ball. Lay one of the prizes on the plastic wrap ball and wrap the plastic wrap around the ball and plastic wad several times. Continue adding prizes onto the plastic wrap ball and then adding more plastic wrap until all the prizes have been wrapped tightly inside the plastic wrap. Prepare one plastic wrapped ball for every four to six kids in your club.

STEP 1: Arrange four to six kids in a circle. Show kids the prize balls and share with kids a few of the prizes inside. Give the first kid the ball. At your signal, the kid holding the ball must begin to unwrap the ball to reach a prize. Once the kid reaches a prize, have him or her pass it to the kid to the left.

STEP 2: If kids have not reached all the prizes, stop the activity after two minutes.

Then ask the following questions:

- On a scale from 1-5, with 1 being super impatient and 5 being calm, show by lifting your fingers in the air how you felt while you waited your turn?
- On a scale from 1-5, with 1 being super impatient and 5 being calm, show same as above how you felt when others received a prize you would have liked?
- Why was it hard to be patient in this activity?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- We have all faced times when we have had to wait.
- We often struggle with patience, and it is easy for us to become frustrated and even angry if we are kept waiting or if we must wait our turn while we see others having fun.

- Our great God is patient. He is never in a hurry, and He is also never late.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is patient.

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God Is Patient



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Draw Your Emoji

What You'll Need: Blank paper, yellow, blue, and black markers or colored pencils

PREP: Nothing

STEP 1: Give each kid a piece of paper. Place markers or colored pencils nearby. Explain that you will read scenarios that kids their age might face. Encourage them to draw an emoji based on what their facial expressions would be in that situation.

Someone gives you a can of your favorite soda.

You and your family wait for 10 minutes in a fast food drive thru, and they STILL get your order wrong.

Your dad is late picking you up from soccer practice.

Your mom made your favorite meal for dinner.

You have no homework over a weekend.

You have a lot of homework over a weekend.

Your batteries in your gaming remote die and you are in the middle of a battle.

You get to spend all day playing games.

Your Internet is slow or drops in the middle of a favorite video.

STEP 2: Ask kids to compare their emojis. Then ask the following questions:

- Which scenarios caused happy emojis?
- Which scenarios caused frustrated or mad emojis?
- Based on your emojis, how do you respond when situations do not go as you planned?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- We have all faced times when we have had to wait.
- We often struggle with patience, and it is easy for us to become frustrated and even angry if we are kept waiting or if we must wait our turn while we see others having fun.
- Our great God is patient. He is never in a hurry, and He is also never late.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is patient.

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1.4

God Is Patient



Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Character Roles

What You'll Need: Three kids' storybook Bibles, "Character Study Guide" handout, pens or pencils

PREP: Gather three kid's storybook Bibles that give an accurate account of the story of Jonah.

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, 2 Peter 3:9. Read the verse again, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- God knows everything, and He is not limited to time like we are. In fact, the Bible says that 1,000 years are like a day to God!
- God is loving and faithful. He will always keep His promises, but His timing is not like ours. God is never in a hurry, and He is never late.
- God wants everyone to repent and trust Jesus as Savior. He doesn't want ANYONE to spend eternity in hell, separated from Him forever.
- God gives everyone an opportunity to trust Him as Savior. Every person must choose.

STEP 2: Explain to kids that the Bible gives us a perfect example of God's patience and His desire for people to repent in the book of Jonah.

Divide kids into three groups, and assign a leader to each group. Give each group a kids' Bible storybook, and assign to them one of the following "characters" in the book of Jonah:

Jonah

The Sailors

The People of Nineveh

Pass out the Character Study page to each kid. Give the groups five minutes to study their character's role in the story and to determine how God was patient toward them and desired for them to repent and follow Him using the study page. As groups work, walk around the room, sharing these key concepts:

- Jonah was a prophet of God, called to deliver God's message to others.

- The people of Nineveh were wicked enemies of God's people. They were vicious and cruel.
- Jonah chose to disobey God and fled to a place far away from Nineveh.
- God spared the lives of the sailors, and they ended up worshipping the true God.
- God spared Noah's life by sending a great fish to rescue him from drowning.
- The people of Nineveh repented of their sins.
- God was patient with Noah, even when he pouted that the people of Nineveh repented.

STEP 3: After five minutes, have each group present their character roles.

Share these key concepts:

- God is patient to each of us. He desires for you and me to repent from our sins and trust Jesus as Savior (2 Peter 3:9).
- One day the time for us to repent will be over, and it will be too late (2 Corinthians 6:2).
- If you have trusted Jesus as Savior, God wants you to share the good news with others who have not yet repented (Acts 1:8).

Step 4: Give kids an opportunity to talk with a leader if they want to learn more about trusting Jesus as their Savior. Encourage the rest to think of one person with whom they can share the good news this week. Have children write this name on a slip of paper and either put in child's book/Bible or hang on the wall in the classroom.

Step 5: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

SECTION

1.4

God Is Patient



Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Patient Words

What You'll Need: Bibles, T&T handbooks, blank paper, pens or pencils, sticky notes

(Leader's Note: Larger clubs may choose to have only a few kids do this at the front of the room while others watch, or have the kids divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.)

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, 2 Peter 3:9. Read the verse again, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- God knows everything, and He is not limited to time like we are. In fact, the Bible says that 1,000 years are like a day to God!
- God is loving and faithful. He will always keep His promises, but His timing is not like ours. God is never in a hurry, and He is never late.
- God wants everyone to repent and trust Jesus as Savior. He doesn't want ANYONE to spend eternity in hell, separated from Him forever.
- God gives everyone an opportunity to trust Him as Savior. Every person must choose.

STEP 2: Have kids turn to section 1.4 in their handbooks. Have kids work in pairs or groups of three, and assign each group to study one of the following verses in their handbooks: Nehemiah 9:17, Exodus 34:6, 2 Corinthians 6:2, 1 Timothy 2:3-4.

Choose a spokesperson from each group and give him or her a pen or a pencil. Ask the spokesperson to write down key words from their verse that describe God's patience to us.

STEP 3: After two minutes, have each pair or group present their findings to the entire group.

Share these key concepts:

- God is patiently waiting for people to accept Jesus as Savior. God desires that everyone should repent from sin and trust Jesus as Savior, but He knows that not everyone will do so (2 Peter 3:9).
- God is patiently waiting for the right time for Jesus to come back for us. Jesus promised His disciples that He would one day come again and that we who

accept Him as Savior would go to heaven forever (John 14:1-3). We can trust that His timing is perfect. He is never early, and He is never late (2 Peter 3:8-9).

- God is always ready to forgive us when we sin (Nehemiah 9:17). Even after we trust Jesus as Savior, we will still sin. Yet God is patient with us, and He is ready to forgive us (1 John 1:9).
- God is patiently working in us to make us more like Jesus. God will continue His work in us until we are complete in Him (Philippians 1:6).
- God patiently gives us time to share the good news with others (Acts 1:8).

STEP 4: Give kids an opportunity to talk to a leader if they have questions about accepting Jesus as Savior. Encourage the rest of the kids to think about how God is patient in their lives.

Give each kid a sticky note and a pen or a pencil. Encourage them to write one way God is patient in their lives. Encourage them to stick the note somewhere in their rooms and to praise God for being patient in their lives when they see the notes.

STEP 5: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

Notes:



Character Study

Who:

Role:

How was God patient toward them?:

Did they turn
to God?:

SECTION

1.5

God Is Always at Work



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Always Open

What You'll Need: Nothing

PREP: Nothing

STEP 1: Have kids brainstorm different occupations or services that are always available to help people (e.g., hospitals, police officers, firefighters, military personnel.).

STEP 2: After one minute, ask the following questions:

- What would it be like if one of these services closed down in our town?
- What problems might we face if all of these services shut down permanently?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- The individuals who work in these fields are willing to work all hours of the day or night to help us and keep us safe.
- We often take for granted that these services are available whenever we need them.
- God is also working all the time in our lives. No matter what situation we may go through, God is always with us and He is always working to fulfill His plans for us.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is always at work in our lives.

Notes:

SECTION

1.5

God Is Always at Work



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Always Working

What You'll Need: Optional: Doctor, nurse, CNA, or medical technician volunteer

PREP: Ask a leader to complete the following activity during class.

Optional: Ask a doctor, nurse, CNA, or medical technician to come to your class to help with the opening activity.

STEP 1: Take a leader's resting pulse and announce the result to the kids. Optional: Ask the visiting medical person to take the leader's pulse.

STEP 2: Ask the leader to jog in place for 60 seconds. Encourage the kids to count aloud with you. After 60 seconds, take the leader's pulse again (or ask the visiting medical person to do so). Share the result with the class.

Ask the following questions:

- Why was (leader's name) pulse faster the second time?
- How did the movement affect his or her pulse?
- What do you think will happen to (leader's name) pulse after he or she rests for a bit?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Our hearts are always at work in our bodies to keep us healthy.
- We do not have to think about our heart beating or tell it to continue to beat; God has designed that to always work on its own.
- Just like (leader's name) heart was always at work during times of rest and times of hard work, God is always at work in our lives, during both good times and hard times, to help us learn to be more like Jesus.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance that God is always at work.

Notes:

SECTION

1.5

God Is Always at Work



Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: God's Work in Joseph's life

What You'll Need: Bibles, T&T handbooks, graph paper, red pen, pens or pencils

STEP 1: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Romans 8:28, together with the kids. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- We can be confident that God has a plan for those who love Him and have trusted Jesus as Savior.
- God is always at work, and He is working all things in our life for His good.
- God is loving and faithful. We can trust that God will use even the hard things in our life to help make us more like Jesus.

STEP 2: Explain to the kids that the story of Joseph helps us understand this verse. Have kids turn to section 1.5 in their handbooks. Encourage kids to work in groups of two or three. Give each kid a sheet of graph paper and a pen or a pencil.

Encourage kids to graph the key events in Joseph's life like a timeline. Do the first two together with the kids as you share the following key concepts:

- Joseph was his dad's favored son (Genesis 37:3-4). (Draw a red dot near the upper left hand corner of a piece of graph paper; hold it up for the kids to see).
- Joseph dreamed about his brothers, which made them angry (Genesis 37:5-11). (Draw a red dot near the lower left hand corner of the graph paper to the right of the first graph point; hold it up for the kids to see.)

STEP 3: Using their handbooks as a guide, encourage the other pairs or groups to complete their graph timelines together. Ask leaders to walk among the kids, offering counsel when needed. After four minutes, ask kids to compare their graphs with each other.

Then ask the following questions:

- If you were Joseph, how would you have been tempted to respond in these situations?
- What would your attitude have been like?
- Step 4: Share these key concepts:

- Joseph chose to trust that God had a plan for his life.
- Joseph did not respond in anger to the unfair situations in his life. In Potiphar's house, prison, and Pharaoh's government, Joseph was trusted and put in places of respect and authority.
- Joseph even reminded his brothers that God used their evil actions in his life to bring about something good (Genesis 50:20).

Step 5: Tell kids to look at their graphs again. Remind them that like Joseph, they will face ups and downs in their lives, but God is always with them, working out every situation for their good

Step 6: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

Notes:

SECTION

1.5

God Is Always at Work



Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: God's Good Plan

What You'll Need: Bibles, paper, marker, tape, sticky notes, pens or pencils

(Leader's Note: Larger clubs may choose to have only a few kids do this at the front of the room while others watch, or have the kids divide into smaller groups to complete the activity.)

PREP: On a sheet of paper, write in large letters each of the following expressions: "Fantastic!" "So-so" "That really stinks!" Tape the expressions on a wall or wall-mounted whiteboard in the room, placing "Fantastic!" near the top, "So-so" in the middle, and "That really stinks!" near the bottom.

STEP 1: Give each kid four sticky notes and tell them to write two great things and two bad things that might happen to kids their age.

STEP 2: After one minute, have leaders collect the sticky notes. Read each sticky note out loud, and have kids rate where it should be placed on the wall.

STEP 3: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Romans 8:28, together with the kids. Repeat the verse a second time, pausing after each phrase.

Share these key concepts:

- We can be confident that God has a plan for those who love Him and have trusted Jesus as Savior.
- God is always at work, and He is working all things in our life for His good.
- God is loving and faithful. We can trust that God will use even the hard things in our life to help make us more like Jesus.

STEP 4: Give each kid a sticky note. Encourage them to write one touch situation they are going through, along with today's date.

Share these key concepts:

- God is loving, faithful and patient. He wants all people to accept Jesus as Savior (2 Peter 3:8, 9).
- God has a good plan for those who have trusted Jesus as Savior (Jeremiah 29:11). He promises to keep working in our lives until that plan is complete (Philippians 1:6).

- Life is hard, and we will face difficult times in our lives. But even in those times, we can trust that God is with us (Isaiah 41:10).
- God is always at work in our lives. He will work even the bad things out for our good and use them to make us more like Jesus (Romans 8:28-29).

STEP 5: Encourage them to place that note in their Bible or handbook. Challenge them to determine to trust that God is at work in their lives and to ask God to help them be more like Jesus each time they see that sticky note.

STEP 6: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

Notes:

SECTION

1.6

God Is ... Review



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Self-Portraits

What You'll Need: Blank paper, pens, pencils, markers, or colored pencils

PREP: Nothing

STEP 1: Give each kid a blank sheet of paper. Place pens, pencils, markers, or colored pencils nearby. Give kids three minutes to create a self-portrait. Encourage them to include characteristics that are unique to them (e.g., hairstyle, eye color, facial features, glasses.)

STEP 2: After three minutes, ask several volunteers to share their portraits.

Ask the following questions:

- What characteristics in this portrait are uniquely you?
- Why do our individual characteristics or personalities help others know us better?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Each of us have unique characteristics in our looks and personalities that set us apart from other people.
- These characteristics can help others identify you as "you." And as they get to know you better, they will appreciate these characteristics more.
- Over the past five sections you have learned five characteristics of God, helping you identify who He is and giving you an opportunity to know Him more.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand these important truths they have learned about God.

Notes:

SECTION

1.6

God Is ... Review



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: Personality Profiles

What You'll Need: Blank paper, pens or pencils

PREP: Nothing

STEP 1: Give each kid a blank sheet of paper and a pen or pencil. Encourage them to ask the person sitting to their left, "What are four things you know about me?" (Remind all kids to offer kind words of encouragement.) After one minute, have the kids switch roles.

STEP 2: Ask several volunteers to share their personality profiles.

Ask the following questions:

- How well did your friend identify your personality when they answered this questions? (Allow for responses.)
- What challenges did each of you face in knowing what each other are REALLY like?
- Why do our individual characteristics or personalities help others know us better?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Each of us have unique characteristics in our looks and personalities that set us apart from other people.
- These characteristics can help others identify you as "you." And as they get to know you better, they will appreciate these characteristics more.
- Over the past five sections you have learned five characteristics of God, helping you identify who He is and giving you an opportunity to know Him more.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand these important truths they have learned about God.

Notes:

SECTION

1.6

God Is ... Review



Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: God Is . . . Panel Praises

What You'll Need: Panel Praises handout, computer, printer, chairs

PREP: Ask five adults from your church or club to be on a panel. Assign each of the panel members one of the following topics: God is trustworthy, loving, faithful, patient, or always at work. Give each one a copy of the Panel Praises handout. Encourage them to be ready to share with the kids a personal circumstance in which God worked in this area of their lives.

Set up five chairs in the front of the room.

STEP 1: Have the panel members sit in front of the class. Introduce each guest, and ask each one to share his or her personal circumstances.

STEP 2: After the panel members have presented their personal circumstances, share the following key concepts:

- God is trustworthy and faithful. God always keeps His promises, and we can trust that no matter what situations we may face, we can know that God will never forsake us. We can trust that because of His steadfast love, He will always be there for us when we need Him (Psalm 9:10, Deuteronomy 7:9).
- God loves everyone and demonstrated that love by sending Jesus to take the punishment for sin. When we trust Him as Savior, God promises that nothing will separate us from His everlasting love (Romans 8:38-39).
- God is patient. He does all things in His perfect time. He desires for everyone to repent, and He patiently waits for people to trust Jesus as Savior (2 Peter 3:9).
- God is always at work. We can be sure that whatever we go through, no matter how difficult, our God will always work everything out for our good (Romans 8:28).

STEP 3: Have kids divide into pairs or groups. Ask a guest to join each group. Encourage kids and guests to pray and praise God for His amazing work in their lives.

Step 4: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

Notes:

SECTION

1.6

God Is ... Review



Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: God Is . . . in My Life

What You'll Need: Bibles, blank sheets of paper, T&T handbooks, pens or pencils (Optional: CD and CD player, smartphone, or tablet)

PREP: Optional: Choose several favorite worship songs to play during this activity

STEP 1: Remind kids that over the past five lessons they have learned characteristics of who God is. Have kids divide into groups of two or three, and give them two minutes to discuss their favorite thing they have learned about God throughout this unit.

STEP 2: Distribute blank sheets of paper and pens or pencils to each kid. Give kids four minutes to review their handbooks and reflect on ways that God is trustworthy, loving, faithful, patient, and always at work in their lives. Encourage them to write or draw their reflections.

STEP 3: After kids have finished, briefly highlight the following key concepts from this unit:

- God is trustworthy and faithful. God always keeps His promises, and we can trust that no matter what situations we may face, we can know that God will never forsake us. We can trust that because of His steadfast love, He will always be there for us when we need Him (Psalm 9:10, Deuteronomy 7:9).
- God loves everyone and demonstrated that love by sending Jesus to take the punishment for sin. When we trust Him as Savior, God promises that nothing will separate us from His everlasting love (Romans 8:38-39).
- God is patient. He does all things in His perfect time. He desires for everyone to repent, and He patiently waits for people to trust Jesus as Savior (2 Peter 3:9).
- God is always at work. We can be sure that whatever we go through, no matter how difficult, our God will always work everything out for our good (Romans 8:28).

STEP 4: Encourage kids to pray quietly, thanking God for who He is in each of our lives.

STEP 5: Follow up with Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

Notes:



Panel Praises

Use the following highlights from the T&T sections to help you prepare a testimony of praise for your assigned topic.

GOD IS TRUSTWORTHY.

God loves us so much that He made a way for us to have a right relationship with Him. When we trust in Him as Savior, He promises to always be with us. We can trust God's promises that He will never leave us and that He is our shield and our refuge. When we trust in God and His word, we are safe and we will have peace, no matter what struggles we may face.

GOD IS LOVING.

God loves everyone, but sin broke man's relationship with God (Romans 5:12). God's greatest demonstration of love was sending Jesus to die on the cross to take the punishment for sin and fix our relationship with God (Romans 5:8). When we trust Jesus as Savior, nothing can ever separate us from God's great, amazing love (Romans 8:38-39).

GOD IS FAITHFUL.

He keeps His promises and continues to love us, no matter what (Romans 8:38-39). He will always do what He says He will do (Deuteronomy 7:9). God has a plan for each person who trusts Jesus as Savior (Jeremiah 29:11). God will be faithful when we are tempted (1 Corinthians 10:13). He will continue to forgive us and help us in troubled times (1 John 1:9). He will complete the work that He has begun in our lives (Philippians 1:6).

GOD IS PATIENT.

He desires that all people should repent from sin and follow Him (2 Peter 3:9). God has a plan for each person who has trusted Jesus as Savior. He is patiently working out the details of that plan, and we can trust God's perfect timing in our lives (Jeremiah 29:11, 2 Peter 3:8).

GOD IS ALWAYS AT WORK.

God desires for all people to be saved (2 Peter 3:9). When we accept Jesus as Savior, our relationship with God is fixed (Romans 5:1). God has a good plan for each of us to make us more like His Son, Jesus (Jeremiah 29:11). God loves us, and we can trust His plan for us. No matter what we go through, good and bad, God will use it to help us be more like Jesus. God is always at work for our good (Romans 8:28).