

WORLDWIDE CELEBRATE EASTER

All Ages (3-12)

Spring 2024



Leader Guide

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

FALL 2023–SUMMER 2024



Fall 2023	Winter 2023–24	Spring 2024	Summer 2024
UNIT 1: CREATIVITY	UNIT 1: JOY	UNIT 1: REMEMBER	UNIT 1: PEACE
God Creates the Earth Genesis 1:1-19	Mary's Joy Luke 1:26-38, 46-56	Jesus Washes Feet John 13:1-17	Abraham and Lot Genesis 13:1-18
God Creates Living Things Genesis 1:20-25	Joseph's Joy Matthew 1:18-24	The Last Supper Luke 22:14-20	David and Abigail 1 Samuel 25:1-42
God Creates People Genesis 1:26–2:4	Jesus Brings Joy Luke 2:1-7	Praying in the Garden Luke 22:39-46	Be Peaceful Psalm 23:1-6
God Creates Helpers Genesis 2:10-23	Joyous News Luke 2:8-20	Jesus Enters Jerusalem Matthew 21:1-11	Esther Book of Esther
	The Magi Matthew 2:1-12	Resurrection Matthew 28:1-10	Peacemakers Matthew 5:1-12
UNIT 2: FAITH	UNIT 2: INCLUDE	UNIT 2: SHARE	UNIT 2: BELONG
Abraham and Sarah Genesis 12:1-9	Jesus' Baptism Matthew 3:13-17	The Great Commission Matthew 28:16-20	Babel Genesis 11:1-9
God's Promise to Abraham Genesis 15:1-6	Calling the Disciples Matthew 4:18-22	Peter and John Acts 3:1-10	Mephibosheth 2 Samuel 9:1-13
Abraham's Visitors Genesis 18:1-14	Showing Love Matthew 5:43-48	Believers Share Acts 4:32-3	The Woman at the Well John 4:4-30, 39-42
Isaac Is Born Genesis 21:1-7	God's Kingdom Luke 13:18-21	Choosing the Seven Acts 6:1-7	Peter's Dream Acts 10:1-48
Jacob and Esau Genesis 25:19-28			
UNIT 3: BLESSING	UNIT 3: GUIDE	UNIT 3: LOVE	UNIT 3: COURAGE
The Birthright Genesis 25:29-34	The Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:5-15	Peter and Tabitha Acts 9:36-43	Rahab Joshua 2:1-24
The Blessing Genesis 27:1-45	Jesus Calms the Storm Mark 4:35-41	The Church Grows Acts 9:26-31	Ruth and Naomi Book of Ruth
Jacob's Ladder Genesis 28:10-22	Mary and Martha Luke 10:38-42	Pentecost Acts 2:1-12	Mary Anoints Jesus John 12:1-8
A Peaceable Kingdom Isaiah 11:6-9	Zacchaeus Luke 19:1-10	Love in Action Romans 12:9-18	Lydia Acts 16:11-15

...BECAUSE
you ARE
AWESOME
and a wonder-worker!
YOU ARE GOD.
JUST
YOU. **PSALM 86:10**

Celebrate Wonder All Ages is a curriculum that honors the spiritual life of children. *Celebrate Wonder All Ages* will engage children in open-ended exploration and inquiry of the Bible. Through experiential activities, spiritual practices, and reflection, *Celebrate Wonder All Ages* serves as a biblical guide to help children make meaning for their lives. This curriculum seeks to deepen children's faith formation and to create a safe space for children to ask big questions and claim their spiritual identity as children of God.

Please visit CokesburyKids.com, where you can find training videos, blog posts, free stuff, and more.

CELEBRATE WONDER®

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What Is...

Celebrate Wonder All Ages is a curriculum that seeks to celebrate spirituality through wonder. Children are naturally spiritual beings and everyday theologians. We want children to recognize and name this spirituality found within themselves and in all the world around them.

This curriculum is based on spiritual practices, which are incorporated through play, discovery, biblical exploration, faith conversation, and relationship. Children who participate in *Celebrate Wonder All Ages* will come to know and use spiritual practices as a way to deepen their faith and to grow in their spiritual identity as children of God. These spiritual practices then become building blocks for holy moments and enrich the faith lives of each and every child. We hope you will come wonder with us as we celebrate the Spirit of God in the lives of children.

The Components of...

Spiritual Practice

A spiritual practice is an intentional activity or ritual that helps you be aware of God's presence. For children, this means simple and tangible practices to connect to God's love.

Teaching children spiritual practices provides them with the tools needed to know themselves fully as children of God. This is important because children who are equipped with these helpful daily practices can develop deeper connections to encounter the divine.

Children are innately spiritual. Their curiosity and wonder are a model for faith in action. Through spiritual practices, they can remain connected to this natural spirituality. Spiritual practices come in all shapes and sizes. In *Celebrate Wonder All Ages*, they are typically simple and interactive practices for the children to develop their own ways to feel God's presence and to know their identity as children of God.

Peaceful Place

The Peaceful Place is a space for the children to spend quiet time with God. Children enjoy having a comfortable place with quiet activities when they are feeling stressed or overwhelmed. Create a feeling of softness and rest by using soft rugs, pillows, and stuffed animals to snuggle with in the area. Each week there will be suggested books and quiet activities you can choose from. Since you know your children and what they need, you are also invited to include your own contributions to the Peaceful Place.

Wonder Table

A Wonder Table is similar to a worship altar found in many worship spaces. It is a holy space meant to help the children see and know God is present. We encourage you to use a smaller table that the children can see and interact with.

Each week there are suggested items to place on the table that coordinate with the church liturgical year and the Bible story. Suggested items include a Bible, a candle, a colored cloth, and so forth. The table can be used as a gathering area for the story time and for participating in spiritual practices.

Wonder Box

The Wonder Box is a place to hold a special item that connects to the Faith Word and to the Bible story. Each week there will be a suggested item to place in the box. The Wonder Box is very special and is kept on the Wonder Table. Each week you will reveal what is inside and discuss its importance.

We encourage you to make your own Wonder Box. It can be any shape or size, but it's best if it has a lid. You can create your own box for the children, or you may wish to include the children in the creation process. The goal is for the children to come to know this box as very special. The Wonder Box is another way for the children to engage in the Bible story and to focus on the lesson.

Core Resources



CELEBRATE WONDER ALL AGES has been adapted to make it easy for ministry with children and families to happen, no matter what your church's current reality is. Whether you're meeting in person all in one room, sending materials home for families to use together, offering a large group opening and small groups in person or virtually, or hosting an intergenerational gathering for your whole church, CELEBRATE WONDER ALL AGES will work for you. The CELEBRATE WONDER ALL AGES Kit contains a Leader Guide, Reproducible Kids' Book, Class Pack, CD-ROM, and DVD! The CD-ROM has digital copies of the Leader Guide, Reproducible Kids' Book, and Class Pack, and also includes Digital Extras such as social media files and a FREE quarterly event and community-building calendar. Digital files are available through the link on the CD-ROM label.

Kit:

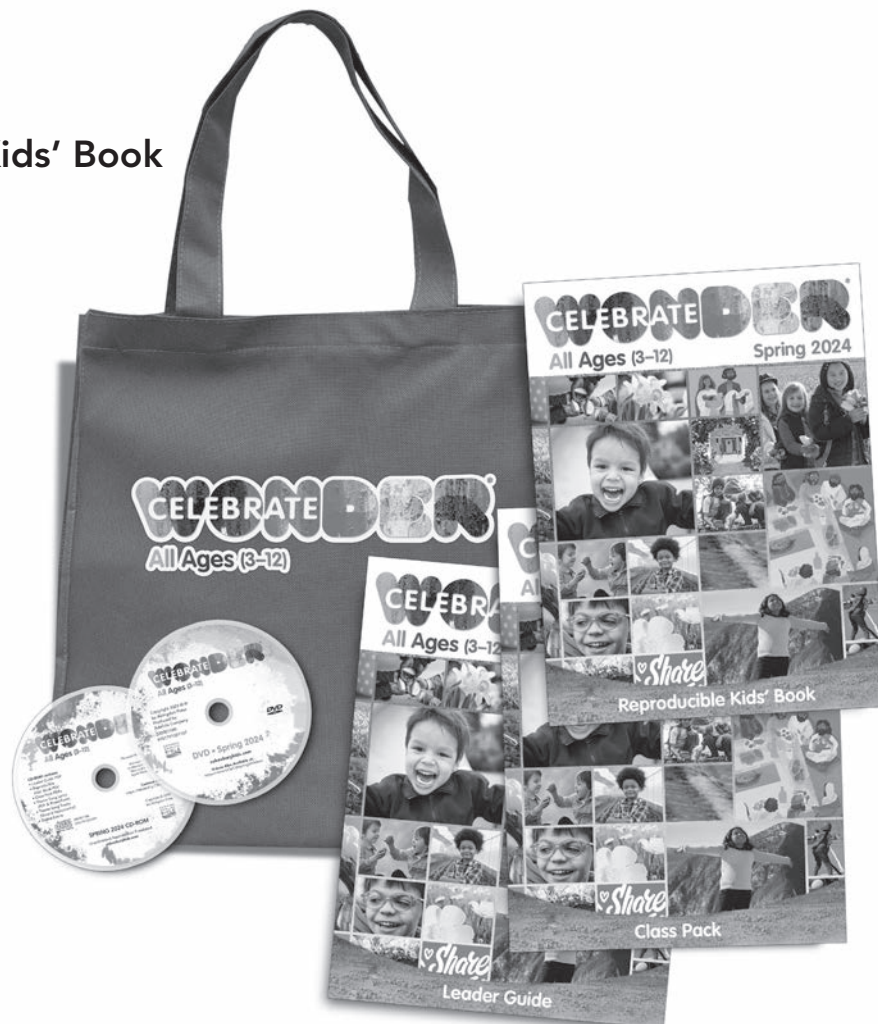
Leader Guide

Reproducible Kids' Book

Class Pack

CD-ROM

DVD



Core Resources

Celebrate Wonder DVD

The *Celebrate Wonder DVD* features a child host who will engage the children through storytelling, life application, and exploration of the Faith Word. The DVD includes a music video and thirteen sessions (one for each Sunday) that are 3–5 minutes each. Online access is available through the link on the DVD label.



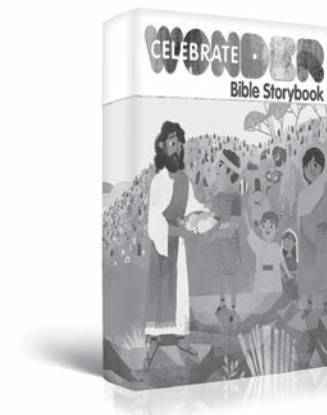
CEB Bible

This interactive Bible includes four-color icons and illustrations throughout, with a wealth of notes, historical facts, book introductions, devotionals, and other interactive elements to capture inquisitive young minds. The *Deep Blue Kids Bible* encourages a thirst for God's timeless message. For children ages 7–12.



Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook

A colorfully illustrated children's Bible storybook that will engage the children through simple storytelling and open-ended questions that encourage the children to wonder about the Bible story and make connections between the Bible and their lives. Includes 150 stories!



Supplies

These are basic supplies you will want to have readily available. All supplies for each lesson and activity will be listed in the session outline and above the activity in the Leader Guide.

Box of tissues	Markers (washable and permanent)	Projector or television
Cardstock	Metal brads	Resealable plastic bags
CD player	Mural paper	Ribbon
Chenille stems	Napkins	Scissors (adult and safety)
Colored and white copy paper	Paintbrushes	Smocks
Colored pencils	Paper bowls	Stapler, staples
Computer and printer	Paper clips	Stickers
Construction paper	Paper cups	Tape (clear, masking, and double-stick)
Cotton balls	Paper or plastic table coverings	Tissue paper
Cotton swabs	Paper plates	Washable paint
Crayons	Paper punch	Watercolor paints
DVD player	Paper streamers	Watercolor pencils
Glue, gluesticks	Paper towels	Wet wipes
Handwashing supplies	Pencils	Wooden craft sticks
Index cards	Plastic containers for paint and water	Yarn
Lunch-sized paper bags	Posterboard	

Take-Home Student Activity Pages

Purchase these supplemental activity pages as a fun take-home for the children in your ministry. These books feature one to two pages of full color activities per session. Available at Cokesburykids.com.

Whether you are using this kit with all ages in one room or with children separated into groups by ages, you will find everything you need in this kit. Here are some ideas for how to make the sessions work for you.

Preparing to Lead

No matter your context, start each week by reviewing the session. Look over the “Prepare to Lead” and the “Prepare to Wonder” sections. This background information helps you navigate any questions you or the children may have. The spiritual practice helps prepare your heart for leading and for helping children explore their faith. Use the “Prepare to Lead” section at the beginning of each session to decide which activities you would like to complete and to make sure you have the corresponding supplies.

As you think about leading, give yourself time and space to ponder the Bible story each week and to pray for yourself, any other volunteers you will be working with, and the children you will lead. When children and adults engage in faith formation together, God can show up in beautiful ways.

Consider Your Context

The most important component of using any curriculum is your own unique context. Before you begin using Celebrate Wonder All Ages, consider how this resource will work best for you. Be sure to think about your time, your space, and the children you will be interacting with to determine what is best for your ministry.

On the next three pages, you will find suggestions and tips for using this resource in several common faith formation models used with children: Age-Graded Ministry, One-Room Ministry, and Large Group/Small Group Ministry.

Meeting Virtually?

If your ministry is meeting virtually, we have several resources to help you share this content with those in your ministry. This Leader Guide, the Reproducible Kids’ Book, and the Class Pack are all available in digital format, along with other resources such as shareable social media images and Zoom backgrounds. Celebrate Wonder videos are also available on our streaming platform, Amplify, which allows you to set up a subscription for the families in your ministry.

Preschool Groups – Suggested Schedule

1. Welcome children on their level and invite them to mark their attendance (if using the Attendance Chart in the Class Pack).
2. Invite children to complete one of the “Come Together” activities or play and interact with items in the Peaceful Place.
3. Gather children together to read the story from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Then watch the session video from the Celebrate Wonder DVD.
4. Wonder together using the unit’s Wonder Story Mat and Faith Word Poster found in the Class Pack. Show the class what is in the Wonder Box and ask them what that might have to do with this week’s story.
5. Have children respond to the story by choosing either the all ages “Experience Wonder” activity, a supplemental preschool activity, or by continuing to interact with items in the Peaceful Place.
6. Gather your group back together to participate in the spiritual practice and closing prayer. Send the Family Celebration Letter and Take-Home Pages home with each child.

Elementary Groups – Suggested Schedule

1. Welcome children on their level and invite them to mark their attendance (if using the Attendance Chart in the Class Pack).
2. Invite children to complete one of the “Come Together” activities based on their ages.
3. Gather children together to read the story from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook* or a CEB Bible. Then watch the session video from the Celebrate Wonder DVD.
4. Wonder together using the unit’s Wonder Story Mat and Faith Word Poster found in the Class Pack. Show the class what is in the Wonder Box and ask them what that might have to do with this week’s story. Help children learn the monthly Bible Verse by doing “Examine the Bible Verse” or allowing children to interact with items in the Peaceful Place.
5. Have children respond to the story by choosing either the all-ages “Experience Wonder” activity or a supplemental activity based on their ages.
6. Gather your group back together to participate in the spiritual practice and closing prayer. Send the Family Celebration Letter and Take-Home Pages home with each child.

One Room Suggested Schedule

1. Welcome children on their level and invite them to mark their attendance (if using the Attendance Chart in the Class Pack).
2. Invite children to complete one of the “Come Together” activities or play and interact with items in the Peaceful Place. You may choose to use the Come Together Reproducible pages based on the ages of the children in your group, or may choose the All Ages activity for everyone.
3. Gather children together to read the story from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Then watch the session video from the Celebrate Wonder DVD.
4. Wonder together using the unit’s Wonder Story Mat and Faith Word Poster found in the Class Pack. Show the class what is in the Wonder Box and ask them what that might have to do with this week’s story.
5. Have children respond to the story by choosing either the all-ages “Experience Wonder” activity, a supplemental activity, or by continuing to interact with items in the Peaceful Place.
6. Gather your group back together to participate in the spiritual practice and closing prayer. Send the Family Celebration Letter and Take-Home Pages home with each child.

Tips for One Room Ministry

If you only have time for one or two activities, choose activities based on the average ages of your group.

Partner older children with younger children to help guide them through the session.

Have a variety of Bibles on different reading levels available for children to use.

Start with the Large Group Time:

1. Everyone will watch the session's video from the DVD.
2. Wonder together using the unit's Wonder Story Mat and Faith Word Poster found in the Class Pack. Show the class what is in the Wonder Box and ask them what that might have to do with this week's story.
3. Send the kids to their small groups.

Small Group Time:

1. Welcome children on their level and invite them to mark their attendance (if using the Attendance Chart in the Class Pack).
2. Read the Bible story from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook* or a CEB Bible.
3. Do the reproducible that coordinates with the age group of your small group.
4. Choose an activity from the "Experience Wonder" section, one of the supplemental activities based on the age and/or interests of your small group, or allow children to interact with the items in the Peaceful Place.
5. Gather the group back together to participate in a spiritual practice and closing prayer. Send the Take-Home Pages and the Family Celebration Letter home with each child.

Tips for Small Groups

Adjust the order of activities based on the needs of your group.

Choose activities based on the age of your group, but also consider their interests. Many of the activities can be adapted for different age groups.

Allow for fellowship time within your group by inviting children to share their thoughts and prayer requests during the closing prayer time.

Do this in remembrance of me. (Luke 22:19c)

Jesus Washes Feet – John 13:1-17

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

- Paint a Footprint (Art)
- Find the Bible Verse (Puzzle)
- Ways to Be a Servant (Reflection)
- Washing Feet (Journaling)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

- Serving Shoes (Game)
- Personal Rituals (Spiritual Exploration)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activities)

WONDER MORE

- Washing Table (Sensory)
- Messy Paint (Art)
- Remember the Story (Game)
- Service Project Brainstorm (Activity)

Supplies At-a-Glance

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| <i>crayons</i> | <i>plastic table covering</i> |
| <i>colored pencils</i> | <i>dolls or small toys</i> |
| <i>markers</i> | <i>travel-size soap</i> |
| <i>scissors</i> | <i>pitchers</i> |
| <i>watercolors</i> | <i>plastic containers in various sizes</i> |
| <i>paintbrushes</i> | <i>fingerpaints</i> |
| <i>small cups</i> | <i>construction paper</i> |
| <i>paper</i> | <i>wipes</i> |
| <i>cardstock</i> | <i>smocks</i> |
| <i>small bowls</i> | <i>butcher paper</i> |
| <i>towels</i> | |

Suggested Books

- Easter Love Letters from God: Bible Stories* by Glenys Nellist
- Hands Say Love* by George Shannon

Tips for the Leader

- Welcome to *Celebrate Wonder*! Whether you are new to this program, or you have been using it for some time, there is much to explore as you embark on a faith journey with children. In this section, you will find tips for particular sessions, and the *Celebrate Wonder* line as a whole.
- This page also provides you with a session outline of activities and supply list.
- Activities that are consistent in each session, such as Gather Together, Share a Story, Wonder with Me, Examine the Bible Verse, and Go in Peace are not included in this outline. Each activity in the outline requires supplies that are not included in your *Celebrate Wonder Kit*.
- As you prepare to lead, be sure to prepare any items you are using from the Class Pack.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: REMEMBER

Today we are exploring the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. As Jesus and his disciples are having a meal, Jesus kneels down and begins to wash the feet of his friends. This act typically is something done by a servant, so the disciples are surprised. Peter says to Jesus, "No! You will never wash my feet!" This is a strong response. But Jesus, who soon will be led to his death, has a purpose behind his actions.

By washing his disciples' feet, Jesus wants to make it clear to the disciples that in God's world, all are created equal. The servant and the master are loved equally by God and treated the same. Jesus wants his friends to remember him by his example of serving others, especially those society says should serve him instead. We, too, can serve like Jesus. This story reminds us of Jesus' life and of who we are called to be as his disciples.

Many churches use this story during Lent or Holy Week and hold a foot-washing service. When we participate in this ritual, we remember Jesus and answer his call to follow his example. Children might see this practice as a yucky job and not as something we do today. Try comparing this practice with other acts of service, such as helping a neighbor take out the trash, caring for someone who is sick, or helping a friend clean up a spill. Through this story we can help children know and see that they are serving like Jesus when they do unexpected acts of love.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, pay attention to your feet or hands. At the end of the day or when you bathe, wash your feet or hands three times. As you wash, say the Bible verse, "Do this in remembrance of me." Think about all the places your feet or hands have been. Rejoice in knowing you have helped serve. You are an example of Jesus.

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

Paint a Footprint – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, cardstock, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, small cups or bowls, smocks (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Painting a Footprint" (Reproducible 1A) on to cardstock for each preschooler. Fill small cups or bowls with water.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "Painting a Footprint" and set up the painting supplies.

SAY: In our Bible story today, Jesus washes the disciples' feet.

ASK: What do your feet look like?

- Encourage children to paint their footprint however they would like.

Find the Bible Verse – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Find the Bible Verse" (Reproducible 1B) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Find the Bible Verse."

SAY: We have a new Bible verse this month. Let's see if we can solve the puzzle to learn what it is!

- Encourage children to complete and color the page.

Ways to Be a Servant – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, colored pencils or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Ways to Be a Servant" (Reproducible 1C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Ways to Be a Servant."

SAY: In our Bible story today, Jesus teaches the disciples that it is good to serve others.

ASK: What are some ways that you can be a servant to others?

- Encourage children to write or draw their response on the page.
- Invite willing volunteers to share.

Washing Feet – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Washing Feet" (Reproducible 1D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Washing Feet."

SAY: Jesus washed his friends' feet because he loved them and wanted to serve them.

ASK: Who is someone you love?

- Encourage children to write or draw about how they can help or serve someone they love.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, purple cloth, battery-operated candle, a sandal or pair of sandals

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a purple cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22) to use later in the session. Place the sandals inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: We are in the special season of Lent.

ASK: What do you know about Lent? Do you know what Bible stories we remember during Lent?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "Jesus Washes Feet" (pp. 260-261) from the storybook or read John 13:1-18 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus as an example for us. Amen.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 1 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: What do you remember most about the story?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 1F–1G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus washed their feet?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14).

Locate and cut out the Unit 1 story figures (Class Pack—p. 6) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22).

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *remember*.

- Show the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster and invite the children to wonder about the image.

SAY: The definition of *remember* is to think about and not forget our faith.

ASK: What helps you remember things?

- Have a child place the bowl and towel on the Wonder Mat.

WONDER together:

- How do you remember God loves you?
 - What is something you do over and over that helps you remember God?
 - What do you know about your faith?
 - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal a sandal.

WONDER: How does a sandal help you remember our Bible story today?

Experience Wonder

Serving Shoes – All Ages

- Have the children stand in a circle and look at one another's shoes.
- Tell the children to take off both shoes and put them in a pile, then split the children into pairs.

SAY: Jesus' friends had to take their sandals off to have their feet washed. Then they had to find their sandals again! We aren't going to wash our feet, but we do need to find our shoes and put them on again.

- Have each pair of children take turns finding their partner's shoes and helping put them on. No talking! One child can hold up a shoe; the other child can nod yes or no if it is the correct shoe. When the correct shoes are found, the child must serve the other partner by putting on his or her shoes.

WONDER: How did it feel to serve your partners by finding their shoes and helping them put their shoes on? How can helping others remind you of Jesus?

Personal Rituals – All Ages

Supplies: paper, pencils

ASK: Do you have special faith activities that you do on your own?

SAY: Something we do over and over again is sometimes called a ritual. We are going to work on developing rituals to show love to others, as Jesus did. This will help us remember how much Jesus loved others.

- Distribute paper and pencils, and have the children write responses to the following questions.

ASK: What makes you feel close to God? How can you show love to others?

- After the children have answered the questions, have them read their answers aloud. Work together as a class to use each child's response to help the child find a way to develop her or his own unique ritual.

Tip: Younger children may need extra help thinking of activities. Have children work in groups; help children who are shy or who are having trouble thinking of ideas.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 1 Bible verse is Luke 22:19c. Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Luke in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Luke located in the New Testament? (*third book*) In what chapter of Luke is our verse located? (*22*) What is the verse number? (*19*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15).
Read the verse together.

SAY: Our Bible verse today comes from another version of our Bible story.

ASK: How is this story in Luke similar to the story we read today? How is it different?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 1 Faith Word (Reproducible Kids' Book, 1F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Easter Love Letters from God: Bible Stories by Glenys Nellist, Hands Say Love by George Shannon, quiet toys and soft items, small bowls and towels, paper, crayons,

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 1 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 1F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw a favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Encourage children to retell the story with the bowls and towels and to act out washing one another's feet.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

Preschool – Washing Table

Supplies: plastic table covering, several plastic containers, dolls, bars of sample-size soap, pitchers, towels, water

Prepare Ahead: Fill plastic containers halfway with water.

- Have the children wash the dolls with the soap, rinse them with the pitcher of water, and dry the dolls when they are done.
- Let the children play as long as time allows.

WONDER: What would you say to Jesus if he came to wash your feet?

Tip: Have plastic aprons available for the children to help keep clothes dry.

Early Elementary – Messy Paint

Supplies: finger paint, construction paper, smocks, hand wipes

SAY: Sometimes we get messy. People in Bible times wore sandals, and their feet got really dirty.

WONDER: Can you think of a time when you got messy?

SAY: Let's use our hands to get a little messy. We are going to use finger paint to create a picture of Jesus washing the disciples' feet or to write the Bible verse.

- Give each child a smock to put on and a piece of thick paper.
- Invite the children to use the finger paint to create a picture or to write.
- When the children have completed their art, use hand wipes to clean their hands.
- Set the pictures aside to dry.

Older Elementary – Remember the Story

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids’ Book, scissors, bowl*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy “Remember the Story” (Reproducible 1E). Cut apart the clues, put them in a bowl, and mix them up.*

SAY: Our focus today is on remembering our faith through rituals. Let’s see how well you remember the ritual we learned about today.

- Draw a clue from the bowl, read it, and let the children call out the answer. Correct them or provide helpful hints as necessary. (Answers, in order on the page: Passover, meal, God, towel, feet, Simon Peter, feet, example)

Intergenerational – Service Project Brainstorm

Supplies: *large pieces of butcher paper, markers, various art supplies (optional)*

- Divide the participants into groups of three or four. Give each group a large piece of paper, markers, and other art supplies, if using.

SAY: In our Bible story today, Jesus showed us how to be a servant by washing the disciples’ feet.

SAY: Foot washing at home is not a common practice anymore, but there are many other ways we can serve our family, friends, and community.

ASK: How can we serve others?

SAY: Together with your group, think of ways to serve in each of these categories.

- Give the groups time to brainstorm.
- Invite groups to share their ideas.
- Consider putting your plan in action. Choose one or more of the service project ideas and make a plan as a group to carry out that idea.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Ritual Through Remembrance

Supplies: bowl of water, cup or ladle, towel

SAY: A spiritual practice is something we do over and over again that helps remind us of God’s love and brings us closer to God.

- Gather the children around the small bowl and pitcher.

SAY: I am going to pour water on your hands as you close your eyes and thank God for loving you. Each time you wash your hands this week, you can remember that God loves you and wants you to serve others.

- Guide the children through the spiritual practice, allowing each child to come up and have water poured on their hands.
- Bless each child as they come up.

SAY: Jesus loves you, and you are a blessing.

PRAY: God, show us how to serve others every day. Amen.

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids’ Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Family Celebration Letter” (p. 128) for each child.

SAY: Let’s look at the Take-Home Pages for today (Reproducibles 1F–1G). Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages and the Family Celebration Letter home with each child.

Do this in remembrance of me. (Luke 22:19c)

The Last Supper – Luke 22:14-20

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

- Bread and Cup (Coloring/Craft)
- Disciples at the Last Supper (Drawing)
- In Remembrance (Puzzle)
- Modern Last Supper Menu (Activity)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

- Love Feast (Snack)
- Blessing the Food (Worship Activity)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

- Cup and Plate (Art)
- Story Charades (Game)
- Imagine the Last Supper (Art)
- Table Blessings (Collaborative Activity)

Supplies At-a-Glance

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>crayons</i> | <i>snacks such as cheese, olives, and pita bread</i> |
| <i>colored pencils</i> | <i>play food</i> |
| <i>markers</i> | <i>clear plastic cups and plates</i> |
| <i>scissors</i> | <i>tissue paper</i> |
| <i>pencils</i> | <i>glue</i> |
| <i>highlighters</i> | <i>butcher paper</i> |
| <i>paper</i> | <i>chalk</i> |
| <i>tape</i> | <i>loaf of bread</i> |
| <i>blanket</i> | |
| <i>pillows</i> | |
| <i>napkins</i> | |
| <i>paper plates and cups</i> | |

Suggested Books

- Signs of God's Love* by Jeanne S. Fogle
- Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table* by Jaqueline Briggs Martin

Tips for the Leader

- When leading, welcome children on their level and let them know you are glad to see them. When they arrive, ask children to share their favorite animal.
- Be sure to choose the activities you would like and prep your supplies ahead of time. Make copies of reproducible pages that you plan on using.
- Did you know you can purchase full color activity pages that coincide with each session? If purchasing, consider sending the pages home along with the other take-home pages. Purchase at Cokesburykids.com.
- This session involves food. Be sure to check for allergies before serving food to children in your group.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: REMEMBER

The Passover meal was celebrated each year to mark the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. Jesus and his disciples would have observed Passover many times throughout their lives. This year, the Passover meal with Jesus would be different from others, but they did not know that. During this meal, Jesus gave thanks for the bread and broke it and then took a cup and blessed it. Jesus used the bread and the cup, everyday items, to remind the disciples of his body (the bread) and his blood (the cup), given for them and for us. They have become symbols of God's love in Christian churches today.

During Communion we recite the familiar words, "Do this in remembrance of me," and share the bread and cup to remember the life and death of Jesus. We all might practice and participate in Communion differently; however, we can remember Jesus and his example by simply sharing a meal. Whether we share a meal with friends and family or come forward to receive the elements in worship, we have the opportunity to remember.

Our Scripture contains two rituals of remembering, Passover and Communion. You'll want your children to understand that the rituals of their faith have meaning. They should understand that the ritual of Communion is something that we do to remember Jesus. However, it is not our only ritual, and children should know that they can remember Jesus and their faith in other ways, even when they are away from church. This session will help the children understand why we have faith rituals and that they can use their creativity to remember and keep their faith active anywhere they go.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, make or serve your favorite meal. Enjoy this meal with friends and family. As you share the meal, go around the table and invite each person to choose a way she or he can be a blessing to others.

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

Bread and Cup – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons, scissors, cardstock (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Bread and Cup" (Reproducible 2A) on to cardstock for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "Bread and Cup."

SAY: In our Bible story today, Jesus will do something special with a loaf of bread and cup of juice.

ASK: What do you remember about Jesus?

- Invite children to color and cut out the bread and cup.
- Encourage children to bring their bread and cup to the story circle and to interact with their figures while listening to the Bible story.

Disciples at the Last Supper – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or colored pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Disciples at the Last Supper" (Reproducible 2B) for each child.

SAY: Our Bible story today is about a special meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. It may be a story that you have heard before.

ASK: How do you think the disciples felt to share a special meal with Jesus?

- Distribute a copy of "Disciples at the Last Supper" to each child.
- Have the children draw what the disciples faces might have looked like at the Last Supper.

Tip: Photocopy this activity on both sides of the paper for each child. Have the children complete the activity before hearing the story and after hearing the story to compare.

In Remembrance – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Bibles, pencils, highlighters

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "In Remembrance" (Reproducible 2C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "In Remembrance."

SAY: Our Bible story today is about the Last Supper.

ASK: What do you know about the Last Supper?

- Encourage the children to circle or highlight the words from the story in the puzzle.

Modern Last Supper Menu – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Modern Last Supper Menu" (Reproducible 2D) for each child or group.

- Give each child or group a copy of "Modern Last Supper Menu."

SAY: Our story today is called The Last Supper. This was the last meal that Jesus shared with his friends and followers.

ASK: If you were to have a last meal with Jesus today, what would you serve?

SAY: Let's plan a Last Supper menu together.

- Divide the children into pairs or groups.
- Encourage groups to come up with a modern Last Supper menu. Children may write or draw their choices.
- Invite willing groups to share.

Tip: Group younger children with older children so that the older children can provide them with help for this activity.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, purple cloth, battery-operated candle, a picture of Jesus or a variety of images of Jesus

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a purple cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22) to use later in the session. Place the picture of Jesus inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: We are in the season of Lent and we are remembering stories of Jesus.

ASK: Have you ever had a special meal with someone?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, “The Last Supper” (pp. 240–241) from the storybook or read Luke 22:14–20 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: God, thank you for all the special things Jesus did. Amen

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 2 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: What helps you remember Jesus?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids’ Book, Bible dress-up clothes (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today’s Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 2F–2G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: Why do you think Jesus wanted his disciples to remember him?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14).

Locate and cut out the Unit 1 story figures (Class Pack—p. 6) if you haven’t already.

Display the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22)

SAY: Today’s Faith Word is *remember*.

- Read the definition of remember from the Faith Word Poster.

ASK: What was special about the Last Supper?

- Have a child place the bread and cup on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- What do you think it would be like to share a meal with Jesus?
- Does the story of the Last Supper remind you of anything?

- What do you think Jesus' friends remembered about him?
- What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the picture of Jesus.

WONDER: What do you remember about Jesus?

Experience Wonder

Love Feast – All Ages

Supplies: blanket, pillows, napkins, paper plates, cheese, olives, pita bread, hummus, paper cups, juice

Prepare Ahead: Lay the blanket on the floor and scatter the pillows. Place the food on the plates.

- Have the children sit in a circle around the Love Feast.

SAY: We don't know for sure what Jesus and his friends had at the Passover meal, but these were common foods in Bible times. We are going to share this snack together because we love Jesus and want to remember him.

- Let the children take turns choosing the foods they want to sample.
- Let's go around the circle and say one thing we remember about Jesus.

WONDER: What is your favorite story of Jesus?

Tip: Be sure to check for any food allergies before serving food.

Blessing the Food – All Ages

Supplies: paper, pencils, crayons, markers

- Gather the children in a circle.

WONDER: Where does our food come from? What kinds of food do you like to eat?

SAY: People all over the world grow and make our food, and it takes time to get to our tables. It's important to remember all the people who help us have food to eat.

- Invite the children to write or draw a prayer for those who make our food.
- Invite willing volunteers to share. Say the prayers together.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 1 Bible verse is Luke 22:19c Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Luke in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Luke located in the New Testament? (*third book*) In what chapter of Luke is our verse located? (*22*) What is the verse number? (*19*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15).
Read the verse together.

ASK: Does this story appear in any of the other Gospels? Let's see if we can find it.

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 1 Faith Word (Reproducible Book 1F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Signs of God's Love by Jeanne S. Fogle, Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table by Jaqueline Briggs Martin, quiet toys and soft items, play food and dishes, pictures of the Last Supper, paper, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 1 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 1F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw the favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Encourage children to compare the pictures of the Last Supper. They may also choose to reenact the story with the items provided.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

Preschool – Cup and Plate

Supplies: clear plastic cups and plates, pieces of colored tissue paper, glue, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Cut or tear tissue paper into small pieces.

- Give each child a plastic cup and plate.
- Show the children how to glue the tissue paper onto the outside of the plastic cup and the underside of the plastic plate.

SAY: It doesn't matter if we use a plain cup and plate or a fancy one when we remember Jesus. The important thing is to remember Jesus and his love for us.

WONDER: What do you think Jesus and his friends talked about as they ate the meal?

Early Elementary – Story Charades

Supplies: paper strips or scraps, pencil, bowl or basket, timer

Prepare Ahead: Write the following words on small pieces of paper, fold up, and place in the basket or bowl: table, bread, cup, Jesus, disciples, eat, Passover, drink, supper, meal, blessed.

SAY: Let's play a game to help us remember today's Bible story.

- Direct the children into two teams.

SAY: Each team will choose a word and then one person from the team will act out the word. The rest of the team members will try to guess the word in 30 seconds. Each correct guess earns the team one point. The team with the most points wins.

- Play the game as long as time allows.

Older Elementary – Imagine the Last Supper

Supplies: CEB Bibles, paper, chalk, markers, images of the Last Supper

Prepare Ahead: Locate images of the Last Supper on the internet. You may choose to print these or show them electronically.

SAY: The Last Supper has been portrayed in famous paintings many times over the years. Later, we'll look at some of that art. For now, let's imagine what we think the Last Supper looked like.

- Distribute the art supplies. Have the children draw as you read Luke 22:14-20 aloud.
- Show the children different images of the Last Supper.

ASK: How is your art similar to these images? How is your art different?

Intergenerational – Table Blessings

Supplies: butcher paper, markers (or a dry-erase board and dry-erase markers)

- Divide participants into groups.

SAY: Since our story today is about sharing a meal, let's work together to write a table blessing.

ASK: What do you think we should give thanks to God for?

- Write down their ideas.

ASK: What do you think we should ask God for?

- Write down their ideas.
- On a separate piece of paper or on a whiteboard, work in groups to put the ideas together into a table blessing.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Ritual Through Remembrance

Supplies: hand sanitizer, loaf of bread

- Gather the children around the Wonder Table.

SAY: In our Bible story, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. Jesus broke the bread and gave it to the disciples. In church, we sometimes do this. We call it Communion.

- Show children the loaf of bread. Tear off a piece and pass it to the child next to you.

SAY: Jesus shares his love with you.

- Have each child tear off a piece of bread, hand the loaf to the next child, and say, “Jesus shares his love with you.”
- Pass the bread all the way around the circle, and then eat the bread together.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for all your goodness. Amen.

Tip: Have an extra loaf of bread ready in case children tear large pieces. Be sure to clean hands and check for any food allergies before serving the bread.

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids’ Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Family Celebration Letter” (p. 128) and the Take Home Pages (Reproducibles 2E–2G) if you have not yet done so already.

SAY: Let’s look at your Take-Home Pages for today. Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages with each child.
- Send a copy of the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.

Do this in remembrance of me. (Luke 22:19c)

Praying in the Garden – Luke 22:39-46

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

Praying Hands Flowers (Craft)
Where Do You Pray? (Prayer Activity)
Praying in the Garden (Puzzle)
Were You There? (Journaling)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

Prayer Jar (Craft)
What Did You Pray? (Game)
Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

Remembering (Game)
Sand Prayers (Sensory/Prayer Activity)
Prayer Stations (Spiritual Practice)
Prayer Walk (Movement)

Supplies At-a-Glance

<i>crayons</i>	<i>finger prayer labyrinth</i>
<i>colored pencils</i>	<i>music and music player</i>
<i>markers</i>	<i>sand</i>
<i>scissors</i>	<i>battery-operated votive candles</i>
<i>pencils</i>	<i>decorative tape</i>
<i>prayer shawl</i>	<i>rocks</i>
<i>mason jars</i>	<i>disposable pie tins</i>
<i>glue</i>	<i>permanent markers</i>
<i>ribbon</i>	<i>paint pens</i>
<i>stickers</i>	<i>note cards</i>
<i>plastic cups</i>	
<i>string</i>	
<i>hole punch</i>	

Suggested Books

I Can Say a Prayer by Sophie Piper
Every Which Way to Pray
by Joyce Meyer

Tips for the Leader

- Our Wonder Box item today is a prayer shawl. If you don't have access to a prayer shawl, consider using a special blanket or scarf.
- A free finger prayer labyrinth is available in the free resources section of Cokesburykids.com.
- Did you know you can purchase full color activity pages that coincide with each session? If purchasing, consider sending the pages home along with the other take-home pages. Purchase at Cokesburykids.com.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: REMEMBER

Our Bible story begins after Jesus and the disciples have shared the Last Supper and gone to the Garden of Gethsemane. While his disciples sleep—despite Jesus’ instructions to pray—Jesus goes to pray.

Jesus knew his death was coming soon. He didn’t want to die, and he was probably sad and anxious. He prayed that God would present him with a solution so he wouldn’t have to die, but he also knew it was up to God. After fervently praying, Jesus was visited by an angel. The angel set his mind at peace, and Jesus knew what he had to do.

In this story, Jesus provides us with a model for prayer, taking his sadness and his fear and turning it over to God—as we are taught to do. Jesus asks for what he wants, but ultimately prays for God’s will to be done—as we also are expected to do.

You will want your children to know that no matter what is happening, they can pray to God and God will hear them. You can guide children to go to God with what is hard, just like Jesus did. It might not change the outcome or take away something painful that already has happened; however, it can bring comfort to know that God goes with us and is present in the midst of our fear and sadness.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Feelings are complicated. In hard situations, we all react in different ways. Emotions can be teachers. They teach us what we want and need. When you are feeling an emotion this week, place your hands on your chest or heart. Say what emotion you are feeling. Then repeat the following phrase, “When I feel (emotion), I can share with God; and when I am feeling (emotion), I know God will make me strong. Amen.”

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

Praying Hands Flowers – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Praying Hands Flowers" (Reproducible 3A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "Praying Hands Flowers."

SAY: Our Bible story today is about prayer. Let's make a picture that will help us remember to pray.

- Help each child trace their hands on to the picture.
- Place the left hand on the left upper stem, fingers closed, and trace around the hand. Place the right hand on the right lower stem, fingers closed, touching the left hand illustration. Trace around the right hand.
- Encourage children to color the picture.

ASK: What would you like to pray about today?

Where Do You Pray? – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Where Do You Pray?" (Reproducible 3B) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Where Do You Pray?"

SAY: Today we will hear a story about prayer.

ASK: How do you pray? Where do you like to pray?

- Encourage children to complete the page.

WONDER: Is there one right way or place to pray?

Praying in the Garden – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, CEB Bibles, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Praying in the Garden" (Reproducible 3C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Praying in the Garden."
- Encourage children to unscramble the words and find the mystery word.

Were You There? – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Were You There?" (Reproducible 3D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Were You There?"

SAY: In our Bible story today, the disciples fell asleep when Jesus was praying.

ASK: What would you do if Jesus asked you to pray with him?

- Encourage the children to write or draw their responses on the page.

WONDER: Have you ever felt sleepy when praying?

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, purple cloth, battery-operated candle, a prayer shawl

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a purple cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22) to use later in the session. Place the prayer shawl inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: We will continue to hear stories about Jesus during Lent. Our story today is about Jesus praying.

ASK: Is it easy or hard to remember to pray?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "Praying in the Garden" (pp. 242–243) from the storybook or read Luke 22:39-46 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: God, thank you for helping us remember to pray. Amen.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 3 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: Where do you like to pray? Have you ever prayed outside?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 3F–3G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: Why is this story important to remember?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14).

Locate and cut out the Unit 1 story figures (Class Pack—p. 6) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22).

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *remember*.

- Show the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster and read the definition of the word.

ASK: Why should we not forget our faith? What is important to remember?

- Have a child place the praying hands on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- Why do you think Jesus chose to pray in a garden?
 - Do you like to pray out loud or in your head? I wonder if God can hear you either way.
 - What helps you remember the story?
 - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the prayer shawl.

WONDER: Do you know what a prayer shawl is?

SAY: A prayer shawl is like a small blanket that someone makes for another person. They say a prayer or bless the shawl, then give it to someone who is in need of prayer.

- Pass around the prayer shawl for the children to see and feel.

WONDER: How does this story make you feel?

Experience Wonder

Prayer Jar – All Ages

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, mason jars (one for each child), permanent markers, variety of other art supplies (such as crayons, scissors, paper, glue, stickers, and ribbon)*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "Prayer Jar" (Reproducible 3E) for each child.*

SAY: Today, we are learning about different ways and places to pray. Let's create some ways to remind ourselves to pray during the day.

- Let the children decorate their jars in any way they choose using the art supplies.
- Then hand out copies of "Prayer Jar," and have the children color, decorate, and cut out the cards.
- Have the children fold the cards and place them in their jars.

SAY: When you're at home, you may pull one of these cards from the jar and pray in the way it describes.

What Did You Pray? – All Ages

Supplies: *plastic cups (2 for each pair of children), string, paper hole punch, scissors*

- Divide the children into pairs. Distribute the supplies, and invite the pairs to create a telephone together. Direct them to punch a hole in the center of the bottom of two cups, face the cups away from each other, thread a string through both holes, and tie the ends of the string in a knot inside the cups.
- When the pairs have finished making their telephones, invite one child in each pair to speak a short prayer into one cup while the other child puts the other cup up to his or her ear and listens. Then have them switch.

SAY: It is special to say prayers and to know someone is always listening. God is always there to hear your prayers.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: *CEB Bibles*

SAY: Our Unit 1 Bible verse is Luke 22:19c Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Luke in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Luke located in the New Testament? (*third book*) In what chapter of Luke is our verse located? (*22*) What is the verse number? (*19*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15).
Read the verse together.

ASK: Why is it important to remember or memorize Bible verses? What other verses do you remember?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 1 Faith Word (Reproducible Kids' Book 1F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, I Can Say a Prayer by Sophie Piper, Every Which Way to Pray by Joyce Meyer, quiet toys and soft items, paper, crayons, markers, prayer labyrinth, music player, quiet music

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 1 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 1F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw a favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Encourage children to write or draw their prayer requests or use a finger prayer labyrinth.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

Preschool – Remembering

- Gather the children together.

SAY: Let's play a game to help us remember. I will do a motion, and you will repeat that motion. Then, I will add more motions and you will have to remember them!

- Do a motion like patting your head or hopping on one foot. Have the children repeat.
- Add motions to the first motion. See if the children can remember the sequence of motions.
- Repeat the game as long as desired, and allow other children to be the leader.

WONDER: Is it easy or hard to remember things?

Early Elementary – Sand Prayers

Supplies: table covering, sand, battery-operated votive candles, decorative thin tape, disposable small pie tins, rocks, permanent markers or paint pens

Prepare Ahead: Cover the table and place a small amount of sand in each pie tin.

- Give each child a pie tin, candle, and rock.
- Let each child decorate the candle with the tape and draw a picture or symbol on the rock.
- Show the children how to place the candle and the rock in the pie tin. Let them run their fingers through the sand.

SAY: One way we can remember to pray is by placing a prayer tray on our table. The candle reminds us of the light of Jesus. We can run a finger through the sand as we say a prayer.

WONDER: What else could you put in your prayer tray to remind you of Jesus?

Older Elementary – Prayer Stations

Supplies: supplies of your choosing, note cards, marker

Prepare Ahead: Create three-to-five prayer stations in your classroom. Ideas include an indoor garden, LED candle station, prayer wall, praying in color station, listening station (with spiritual music and headphones), and labyrinth station. Write and display an instruction card for each station.

ASK: Did you know that there are many ways to pray?

SAY: We're going to try some of them now.

- Have the children rotate through the stations as your time permits. Remember, the important thing is that the children try some different types of prayer. Help them as needed, but don't be overly concerned that they do things perfectly.

Tip: Be sure to have a method of signaling when it's time for the children to change stations. Let the children know what the signal will be. This will help avoid pileups at popular stations.

Intergenerational – Prayer Walk

SAY: In our story, Jesus goes to the garden to pray.

WONDER: Where do you like to pray? Have you ever prayed outside?

- Gather your group together and take them outside. If you have a large group, split up into smaller groups that can walk together.

SAY: Jesus felt sad when he was in the garden, so he talked to God. Let's take a walk together. We will call this a prayer walk. As we walk, notice how you feel today. After you notice your feelings, quietly talk to God and say a prayer. You can also choose to pray for different things in different places.

Tip: If the weather does not permit you to go outside, do this activity inside.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Ritual Through Remembrance

- Gather the children together. Pair one older child with a younger child. You may do bigger groups if needed.

SAY: One way to pray is to pray with others. We are going to pray with our friends.

- Invite the children to share their joys and concerns with their partner. Then have them say a prayer together. Encourage the older child to help the younger child.

SAY: All people can pray no matter who they are, how old they are, or where they are. Prayer is such a special way to talk to God.

PRAY: God, we thank you for giving us friends to pray with. Amen.

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book; Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Family Celebration Letter" (p. 128) for each child.

SAY: Let's look at the Take-Home Pages for today (Reproducibles 3F–3G). Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages and the Family Celebration Letter home with each child that has not yet received one.

Do this in remembrance of me. (Luke 22:19c)

Jesus Enters Jerusalem – Matthew 21:1-11

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

Welcome Mat (Craft)
Greeting Jesus (Journaling)
A Modern Welcome (Activity)
Bible Branch (Craft)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

Palm Sunday Processional (Worship)
Welcome Messages (Outreach)
Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

Palm Sunday Streamers (Craft)
Welcome Rituals (Game/Activity)
Walk Through Holy Week (Bible Knowledge)
Church Welcome Mat (Collaborative Art)

Supplies At-a-Glance

<i>crayons</i>	<i>posterboard</i>
<i>colored pencils</i>	<i>green construction paper</i>
<i>markers</i>	<i>wooden dowels</i>
<i>scissors</i>	<i>green streamers</i>
<i>pencils</i>	<i>doormat</i>
<i>cardstock</i>	<i>acrylic paint</i>
<i>glue</i>	<i>foam brushes</i>
<i>tape</i>	<i>paint brushes</i>
<i>music and music player</i>	<i>paper plates</i>
<i>musical instruments</i>	<i>large pieces of fleece</i>

Suggested Books

With You All the Way by Max Lucado
Hope Springs by Eric Walters

Tips for the Leader

- Greet children on their level when they arrive. Check in with children to see if they can remember this month's Bible verse and Faith Word.
- Remind families of any Holy Week activities coming up at your church.
- Did you know you can purchase full color activity pages that coincide with each session? If purchasing, consider sending the pages home along with the other take-home pages. Purchase at Cokesburykids.com.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: REMEMBER

Today we experience the excitement of Jesus being welcomed into Jerusalem, even as we know that this week in Jerusalem will result in his death. In Luke 18:31-33, Jesus told his friends, the disciples, that he would be killed in Jerusalem. Jesus and his friends knew as they entered Jerusalem that Jesus' life on earth was short.

Jesus knew he was in danger as he entered Jerusalem, but he did not try to hide. He arrived, almost in defiance of those planning to kill him. As Jesus approached Jerusalem, crowds gathered on the road to greet him as people greeted kings in those days, by spreading their clothes on the road for him to walk on along with palm branches cut from nearby trees.

As Jesus passed, the crowds shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" By riding a donkey instead of a horse, Jesus was saying he came in peace. A king would ride a horse if he was coming in war and a donkey if coming in peace. Jesus asserted he was a king of peace for all.

There are many symbols in this story. Today we will focus on the symbol of the palm branch. One ritual many churches practice on Palm Sunday is a palm parade. It can be done in many ways, but almost always contains waving of palm branches and shouting, "Hosanna," a word used to praise God. Children will quickly pick up on the symbol of the palm branch as a way to remember and praise God.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Bring the palm branch home from your worship service or make one. Once a day during Holy Week, wave the palm and sing praises to God as you remember Jesus. Thank God that the joy of Easter Day will soon arrive.

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

Welcome Mat – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons, cardstock, laminator (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Welcome Mat" (Reproducible 4A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "Welcome Mat."

SAY: In our Bible story today, Jesus is welcomed into the city of Jerusalem.

ASK: Have you ever been to a new city or a new place?

SAY: Let's make a welcome mat to help us remember the Bible story.

- Invite children to decorate their welcome mat.
- Optional: Cut out and laminate the children's welcome mat to use at home as a place mat.

Greeting Jesus – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons, colored pencil

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Greeting Jesus" (Reproducible 4B) for each child.

SAY: Our Bible story today is about Jesus entering Jerusalem. Many people were happy he was there.

WONDER: How would you welcome Jesus to your city?

- Encourage children to draw or write their responses on the page.

A Modern Welcome – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "A Modern Welcome" (Reproducible 4C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "A Modern Welcome."

ASK: Imagine Jesus is coming to our church, neighborhood, or homes. What would we do?

- Have children work together in pairs or small groups to plan a modern welcome for Jesus.
- Invite willing volunteers to share their answers or ideas.

Bible Branch – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, cardstock, crayons or markers, large craft sticks, glue or tape

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Bible Branch" (Reproducible 4D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Bible Branch."

SAY: Today is Palm Sunday! Let's make a palm branch to help us remember our Bible verse for this month.

ASK: How do we celebrate Palm Sunday?

- Encourage children color and cut out the palm branch. Attach the palm branch to a craft stick with glue or tape.
- Invite the children to repeat the Bible verse.

Tip: Save the Bible branches to use in the Palm Sunday processional.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, purple cloth, battery-operated candle, a cross

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a purple cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22) to use later in the session. Place the cross inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: We have been observing Lent over the past couple of weeks.

ASK: What do you remember about Lent?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "Jesus Enters Jerusalem" (pp. 160–161) from the storybook or read Matthew 21:1–11 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: God, thank you for sending Jesus to us. Amen.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 4 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: What would you have done if you were in Jerusalem that day?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Bible dress-up clothes (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 4F–4G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: What is your favorite part of today's Bible story?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14).

Locate and cut out the Unit 1 story figures (Class Pack—p. 6) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22)

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *remember*.

- Read the definition of remember from the Faith Word Poster.

ASK: What Bible stories do you remember this month?

- Have a child place the donkey on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- What do you think Jesus was thinking when he entered Jerusalem?
 - What do you think the crowds of people thought then they saw Jesus?
 - What is the most special and memorable welcome you've ever received?
 - Have you celebrated Palm Sunday before? What do you remember?
 - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the cross.
 - **SAY:** Palm Sunday is the beginning of a special time called Holy Week. This week, we remember all the things that happened to Jesus before he was sentenced to die on the cross. Holy Week can be sad, but it is an important time to remember Jesus together.

WONDER: What happens after Holy Week?

Experience Wonder

Palm Sunday Processional– All Ages

Supplies: palm branches (real or the one from Reproducible 4D), music, music player, musical instruments (optional)

- Gather the children together. Give each child a palm branch and/or a musical instrument.
- SAY:** Let's re-create the special welcome Jesus received when he entered Jerusalem.
- Invite the children to march around the Sunday school space. You also might have the children process around the church building and invite other Sunday school classes or church members to join in.

Welcome Messages – All Ages

Supplies: markers, posterboard

SAY: In our Bible story today, the people welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem.

WONDER: How can we welcome people into our church?

- Invite children to brainstorm about ways to welcome people.
- SAY:** These are all great ideas! Let's make some signs that we can use to welcome people here.
- Distribute the posterboard and markers. Instruct children to work together to make welcome signs.
 - Display the children's posters around your church.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 1 Bible verse is Luke 22:19c Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Luke in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Luke located in the New Testament? (*third book*) In what chapter of Luke is our verse located? (*22*) What is the verse number? (*19*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15).
Read the verse together.
- ASK:** What are ways that we remember Jesus? How do we remember Jesus during Holy Week?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 1 Faith Word (Reproducible Book 1F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, With You All the Way by Max Lucado, Hope Springs by Eric Walters, quiet toys and soft items, palm branches, Biblical dress-up clothes, green construction paper, scissors, markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 1 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 1F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw the favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Encourage children to create their own palm branches from the green construction paper by tracing or drawing the leaves.
- Invite children to dress up in Biblical clothing and reenact the Bible story.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

Preschool – Palm Sunday Streamers

Supplies: 12–18 -inch wooden dowels, green streamers, glue or tape, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Cut green streamers into 6-inch strips.

- Give each child a dowel and some streamers.
- Help the children glue or tape the streamers to their dowels.
- When the children are done, have them shake the "palm branches" and march around the room, saying, "Hosanna!"

WONDER: Why do you think the people in Jerusalem used palm branches?

Early Elementary – Welcome Rituals

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Welcome Rituals" (Reproducible 4E) for each child.

SAY: Let's see if we can come up with some special ways to welcome one another when we come to class.

- Distribute copies of “Welcome Rituals” and pencils.
- Have the children form pairs. Have each pair develop a special way of greeting each other. It could be a hand motion, movement, or spoken words.
- Let them use the rituals cards to help them remember the greeting for their partner.
- Then have them swap partners and develop a different greeting with their new partner. Continue swapping partners until all children have come up with a special greeting for one another. (If you have a large class, you may limit the swaps to a number of your choosing.)

Older Elementary – Walk Through Holy Week

Supplies: CEB Bibles, paper, markers, tape

Prepare Ahead: Write the following Scriptures on individual sheets of paper and tape throughout your space: Matthew 21:1-11, Matthew 26:17-35, Matthew 26:31-58, Matthew 26:69-75, Matthew 27.

SAY: Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week. We sometimes read the stories out of order from how the events actually happened, so today we are going to walk through the stories in order.

- Together or in groups, have the children walk to each space with a Scripture posted, starting with Matthew 21.
- At each stop, look up the Scripture passage together and read it. Pause for time for reflection before moving to the next station. Repeat until you have read all five passages.

WONDER: How did it feel to read the Bible stories in order? What will you remember about Holy Week?

Intergenerational – Church Welcome Mat

Supplies: table covering; paint smocks; plain, light-colored door mat; acrylic paint; paper plates; foam brushes; handwashing supplies or wipes

Prepare Ahead: Cover the table.

SAY: Let’s make a welcome mat to welcome others to our church.

- Pour a little bit of each paint color onto separate paper plates.
- Hand out the paint smocks for the children to wear.
- Use a foam brush to write the word “Welcome” in the middle of the mat.
- Let each participant dip one hand, palm down, into the paint and make a hand print on the mat.

- Set the mat aside to dry. When it is dry, place it at the entrance to your church or children’s ministry area.

Tip: If you have a larger group, make more than one mat.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Ritual Through Remembrance

Supplies: battery-operated candle

ASK: Did you know that Jesus is considered the Light of the World? When we light a candle during a spiritual practice, it is a way of remembering Jesus.

SAY: Let’s light our candle.

- Gather the children around the Wonder Table, and light the LED candle.

SAY: Now that we have lighted our candle, let’s act as though Jesus is here with us! Praise Jesus as if he is walking into our Sunday school space.

WONDER: What might you say or do?

- Invite the children to celebrate Jesus.

SAY: That was great! Now let us close in prayer.

PRAY: God, thank you for sending Jesus to us. Amen.

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids’ Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Family Celebration Letter” (p. 128) and the Take Home Pages (Reproducibles 4F–4G) if you have not yet done so already.

SAY: Let’s look at your Take-Home Pages for today. Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages with each child.
- Send a copy of the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.

Do this in remembrance of me. (Luke 22:19c)

Resurrection – Matthew 28:1-10

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

Jesus Is Alive! (Coloring)
Easter Mobile (Craft)
Tell the Story (Creative Writing)
3-D Butterfly (Craft)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

Easter Card (Art)
Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

Egg Rolling (Game)
Stone Painting (Art)
Good News Wall (Collaborative Art)
Post-Easter Celebration (Outreach)

Supplies At-a-Glance

<i>crayons</i>	<i>Easter stickers</i>
<i>colored pencils</i>	<i>various art supplies</i>
<i>markers</i>	<i>rocks</i>
<i>scissors</i>	<i>plastic butterflies</i>
<i>pencils</i>	<i>soft modeling dough</i>
<i>unsharpened pencils</i>	<i>fly swatters</i>
<i>string or yarn</i>	<i>potted lily</i>
<i>hole punch</i>	<i>baking sheets</i>
<i>paper</i>	<i>acrylic pint,</i>
<i>glue</i>	<i>shaving cream</i>
<i>plastic Easter eggs</i>	<i>cardstock</i>
<i>construction paper</i>	<i>craft sticks</i>
<i>toothpicks</i>	

Suggested Books

Good News! It's Easter!
by Glenys Nellist

Waiting for Wings by Lois Elhert

Tips for the Leader

- Happy Easter! Whether you use this lesson before, on, or after Easter Sunday, enjoy celebrating the resurrected Jesus with the children in your group.
- Jesus' resurrection may bring up a lot of questions for younger children. Encourage questions, wonderment, and awe as you explore the story together.
- As you prepare to lead, be sure to include items you are using from the Class Pack.
- Easter is a celebration, therefore the liturgical colors change from the purple of Lent to white. Be sure to change the color on your Wonder Table!

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: REMEMBER

Happy Resurrection Day! In today's story, women are the first to find the empty tomb. They do not come to anoint Jesus' body, like in Mark; they come to see the tomb. Some argue this is because they remembered Jesus' teachings about his resurrection and wanted to see if God's promise had been fulfilled.

As the women approach the tomb, there is a great earthquake and they see an angel roll the stone away and sit on top of it. The angel tells the women not to be afraid. The angel says that Jesus is not in the tomb. Jesus is alive! "Go and tell the other disciples that Jesus is alive and will meet them in Galilee," the angel says. In awe and amazement, and maybe fear, the women run to tell the other disciples what the angel had said.

But wait! As the women run down the path, Jesus himself appears to them. They fall to their knees when they see Jesus, and he reiterates what the angel had said: "Go, tell the disciples I will see them in Galilee." A direct command from Jesus to the women, to remember his resurrection share the good news with others.

We have many ways of remembering Jesus' resurrection. On Easter we use symbols like Easter lilies to represent the new life offered through resurrection. Resurrection can remind us that with each new day there is opportunity to see God's goodness and to share that goodness with others. God continues to give us new life, exemplified in the story of Jesus' resurrection. We may also shout in worship, "Christ is risen!" to remind ourselves and one another of the many ways God offers us new life through the life of Jesus.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, remember Jesus' resurrection by helping others celebrate. You can plan and prepare to brighten Resurrection Day for friends and neighbors with cards, Easter lilies, or a special Easter treat (where appropriate). Involve your family in making and delivering everything. Which ritual of sharing the love of Christ with others on Resurrection Day speaks to you most?

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

Jesus Is Alive! – Preschool

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "Jesus Is Alive!" (Reproducible 5A) for each preschooler.*

- Give each preschooler a copy of "Jesus Is Alive!"

SAY: Today is Easter Sunday! Jesus Is Alive!

ASK: How do you feel today?

- Encourage the children color the picture of the Bible story as you talk about Easter.

Easter Mobile – Younger Elementary

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, unsharpened pencils (2 per child) , crayons or markers, scissors, hole punch, string or yarn, paper*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "Easter Mobile" (Reproducible 5B) for each child. Cut string or yarn into various lengths: 6, 8, or 10 inches.*

- Give each child a copy of "Easter Mobile," two pencils, and string.

SAY: Let's make a mobile to help us remember all the stories of Jesus we've heard this month.

ASK: What is your favorite story that you have heard during Lent?

- Encourage the children to color and cut out the images.
- Show children how to secure their pencils together. Place the pencils across one other in a cross pattern and secure by wrapping the string around the middle and tying together.
- Punch a hole in each image, and attach one end of the string or yarn to each image. Then, attach the images to the different ends of the pencils to create a mobile. Attach another piece of string to the mobile and make a loop to create a hanging piece.
- If time allows, encourage children to create their own images to add to their mobile.

SAY: Your mobiles can help you remember the stories of Lent and Easter.

Tell the Story – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, colored pencils or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Tell the Story" (Reproducible 5C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Tell the Story."

ASK: What would it look like if Jesus' resurrection happened today? How would we hear about it?

- Encourage children to write and illustrate a blog or social media post about the Resurrection.
- Invite willing volunteers to share their writings.

3-D Butterfly Craft – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons, markers, scissors, string (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "3-D Butterfly" (Reproducible 5D) for each child.

SAY: Butterflies remind us of Jesus' resurrection and of new life.

WONDER: Who knows how the butterfly's life cycle works?

SAY: Butterflies go through a special life cycle and show us that life goes on and on, even when it seems impossible.

- Give each child a copy of "3-D Butterfly" to color and decorate.
- Show the children how to cut out the butterfly on the outside lines and then on the solid lines inside the wings. Fold the wings up on the dashed lines.
- If you choose, hang up the butterflies in your space.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, white cloth, battery-operated candle, a lily

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a white cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22) to use later in the session. Place the lily inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: Today is a day of celebration. It's Resurrection Day!

ASK: What is another name for today? (Easter)

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, “Resurrection” (pp. 170–171) from the storybook or read Matthew 28:1-20, from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for the good news of Easter. Amen

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 5 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: How do you celebrate Easter with your family? What is your favorite part of celebrating Easter?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids’ Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today’s Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 5F–5G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: Have you ever had good news to share? What did you do?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14).

Locate and cut out the Unit 1 story figures (Class Pack—p. 6) if you haven’t already.

Display the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22).

SAY: Today’s Faith Word is *remember*.

- Show the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster and invite a child to read or recite the definition of the faith word.

SAY: This month we have been remembering stories of Jesus.

ASK: What do you remember about Jesus? What happened in our Bible story today?

- Have a child place the empty tomb on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- How do you think the women's faces looked when they saw the angel at the tomb? (*Let the children make faces.*)
 - How do you think the guards' faces looked when they saw the angel? (*Let the children make faces.*)
 - Why is it important to remember Easter?
 - What do you think is in our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the lily.

SAY: Today we are celebrating Easter and new life. We use signs of new life, like flowers and butterflies, to remember Easter.

WONDER: What else helps you remember Easter?

Experience Wonder

Easter Cards – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Easter stickers, construction paper, crayons and markers, scissors, glue, assorted art supplies

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Easter Card" (Reproducible 5E) for each child.

- Show children how to cut out their card and glue it to construction paper to make a sturdier card.
- Have each child decorate the card with the supplies you provided.

SAY: The angel and Jesus told the women to share the good news that Jesus was alive.

WONDER: Who can you share the good news that Jesus is alive? Why is it important to share the good news of Jesus?

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 1 Bible verse is Luke 22:19c Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Luke in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Luke located in the New Testament? (*third book*) In what chapter of Luke is our verse located? (*22*) What is the verse number? (*19*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13).
Read the verse together.

ASK: Can you say our Bible verse from memory?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 1 Faith Word (Reproducible Kids' Book, 1F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Good News! It's Easter! by Glenys Nellist, Waiting for Wings by Lois Elhert, quiet toys and soft items, separated plastic Easter eggs, rocks and stones, plastic butterflies, crayons or markers, paper, soft modeling dough

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 1 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 1F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw a favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Have the children form rocks and tombs out of the modeling dough.
- Encourage children to write messages to place inside the plastic eggs, along with a plastic butterfly.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

Preschool – Egg Rolling

Supplies: plastic eggs, flyswatters (one per team), painters' tape, scissors, plastic butterflies

Prepare Ahead: Mark two X's in painters' tape on the floor at one end of the room, and mark off one large square on the floor at the other side of the room. Place plastic butterflies in some of the eggs.

- Give each child a plastic egg and line them up in two teams by the X's. Give the first child in each team a flyswatter.
- Tell them to place the egg on the X and when you say, "Go," they are to use the flyswatter to move the egg into the taped square on the other side of the room. They must then run the flyswatter to the next person in line on their team, repeating until all team eggs are in the square.

SAY: The angel rolled the stone away, and the tomb was empty. Jesus was not there. The empty egg is a symbol of the empty tomb. It reminds us that Jesus is not in the tomb, that he is alive!

SAY: Let's open our eggs and see if they are empty.

- One at a time, have each child open an egg and see if there is a butterfly. If the egg is empty, the child will shout, "He is Risen!" If the egg has a butterfly, the child will say, "Jesus brings new life!"

SAY: We are so happy that Jesus is alive, we are celebrating!

Early Elementary – Stone Painting

Supplies: baking sheets, shaving cream, acrylic paint, cardstock cut into large circles (one for each child), toothpicks, jumbo craft sticks, smocks

- Hand out the supplies, and have the children put on smocks.

SAY: In the Bible story, the stone was rolled away from Jesus' tomb and Jesus was gone. Jesus' disciples were sad at first, but then they remembered Jesus' message and wanted to share that message with others.

- Have the children cover a baking sheet in shaving cream. Then squeeze a few drops of paint onto the shaving cream.
- Direct the children to use a toothpick to swirl through the paint to mix it into the shaving cream.
- Place the cardstock circle on the mixture, press down, and let it sit for two minutes.
- Gently remove the cardstock circle, and use a jumbo craft stick to scrape off the excess mixture. Set the circle aside to dry.

SAY: Now you have a special stone to remember Jesus' resurrection.

Older Elementary – Good News Wall

Supplies: paper, crayons, markers, stickers, scissors, hanging materials (such as a stapler, tape, putty, or thumbtacks, depending on your surface)

Prepare Ahead: Clear a wall or a bulletin board.

SAY: Let's decorate a space where we can share our good news.

ASK: How do you think we should decorate our space.

- Once the children agree, let them work together to decorate the wall or board.

Intergenerational – Post-Easter Celebration

Supplies: paper, pens or pencils, markers

SAY: We are celebrating Easter! We have heard the good news of the Resurrection, and we can share this good news with other.

- Divide the participants into groups of three or four.

SAY: Let's plan ideas for how we can share the good news with our community. What type of celebration can we host after Easter?

- Give the groups time to brainstorm their ideas.
- Invite groups to share their ideas and as a group, decide a plan that you would like to put into action.
- Plan your celebration and make plans to invite members of your community!

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Remembrance Through Ritual

- Gather the children in a circle near the Wonder Table.

SAY: Today we have talked a lot of about Resurrection, new life, and new beginnings. Easter is a special day to learn about these things.

WONDER: What have you learned today?

SAY: Let's use our bodies to send out the good news of Easter. Do the motions I do.

- Bend down and wrap your arms around your legs.

SAY: I can begin somewhere,...

- Stand halfway up and place your hands on your knees.

SAY: Even if I am small.

- Stand all the way up and place your hands on your hips.

SAY: I can keep growing...

- Flap your arms like butterfly wings.

SAY: To share the good news!

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Family Celebration Letter" (p. 128) for each child.

SAY: Let's look at the Take-Home Pages for today (Reproducibles 5F–5G). Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages with each child.
- Send a copy of the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32a)

The Great Commission – Matthew 28:16-20

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

- I Can Share God's Love (Journaling)
- Remember the Verse (Craft)
- Sharing the Good News Today (Journaling)
- Color the Journey (Coloring)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

- I Am Going (Game)
- Wonder Ball (Game)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

- Paper Cup Megaphone (Craft)
- All Around the World (Art)
- Community of Believers (Game)
- Christianity (Response)

Supplies At-a-Glance

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>crayons</i> | <i>globes</i> |
| <i>colored pencils</i> | <i>paper cups</i> |
| <i>markers</i> | <i>chenille stems</i> |
| <i>scissors</i> | <i>picture of Earth</i> |
| <i>pencils</i> | <i>construction paper (green, blue)</i> |
| <i>single hole punch</i> | <i>open space for playing</i> |
| <i>cardstock</i> | |
| <i>ribbon</i> | |
| <i>maps</i> | |
| <i>inflatable world globe</i> | |

Suggested Books

- Jesus and the 12 Dudes Who Did* by Mindy MacDonald
- Come with Me* by Holly M. McGhee

Tips for the Leader

- When leading, welcome children on their level and let them know you are glad to see them. When they arrive, ask children to share their favorite animal.
- Be sure to choose the activities you would like and prep your supplies ahead of time. Make copies of reproducible pages that you plan on using.
- Did you know you can purchase full color activity pages that coincide with each session? If purchasing, consider sending the pages home along with the other take-home pages. Purchase at Cokesburykids.com.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: SHARE

In today's Bible story, Jesus gathers his eleven disciples around him on a mountaintop in Galilee. Jesus commissions his disciples with the task of forming a community of believers. This community is to embody Jesus' presence in the world to strengthen and guide God's children.

However, some of the disciples express doubt. They are still having trouble grasping the mystery of the Resurrection. While some worship Jesus immediately, others have questions. There are many times in the Gospels when the disciples express doubt or disbelief even though they are devoted to Jesus. So it is natural that we, Jesus' modern disciples, also experience some doubt. Just like the disciples before us, we have to accept a little mystery with our faith. Like them, we must accept that there are some answers we don't have and some things that can't be explained. Jesus knows this is a lot for the disciples to take in, and he promises to be with them always as they spread the gospel.

We call Jesus' instructions to form a community of believers the Great Commission. A commission is a call to something God wants you to do. God commissions all of us to share Jesus with the whole world. We do this in many ways, such as ministry and showing kindness, love, and respect. We are called to go and baptize, teach, and serve others. These were central actions in Jesus' ministry, just as they are central to our calling as followers of Christ. Jesus promises to go with us always, even when we doubt, as we carry out the Great Commission.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, reflect your commission. Is there something specific that you feel God is calling you to do in ministry? Even if you aren't ready to answer that call yet, take some time to think about it. Then journal about it. If you are ready to move forward, write out a plan for answering your call. Do you need to take a class and/or talk to someone at your church? What can you do to prepare to answer your call?

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

I Can Share God's Love – Preschool

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "I Can Share God's Love" (Reproducible 6A) for each preschooler.*

- Give each preschooler a copy of "I Can Share God's Love."

SAY: Jesus sent his disciples out into the world to share God's love.

ASK: How can you share God's love?

- Invite children to write or draw on the page.

Remember the Verse – Younger Elementary

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, cardstock, single paper punch, markers or crayons, scissors, ribbon*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "Remember the Verse" (Reproducible 6B) onto cardstock for each child.*

SAY: Let's make something to help us learn our Bible verse.

WONDER: What do you think it means to be of one heart and one mind?

- Distribute a copy of "Remember the Verse" to each child.
- Direct the children to color the bookmarks. Then have the children cut out the bookmarks.
- Use a paper punch to make a hole at the top of each bookmark for the children to tie a ribbon through.
- Remind the children to keep one bookmark for themselves and to give the other two to friends or family.

Sharing the Good News Today – Older Elementary

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, colored pencils or markers*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "Sharing the Good News Today" (Reproducible 6C) for each child.*

- Give each child a copy of "Sharing the Good News Today."

ASK: What do you think is the best way to spread the good news of Jesus today?

- Encourage the children to complete the page.
- Invite willing volunteers to share their answers or ideas.

Color the Journey – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Color the Journey" (Reproducible 6D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Color the Journey."

ASK: What do you think it was like for the disciples on their journey to share God's love?

- Invite the children to complete and color the page.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, white cloth, battery-operated candle, a map

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a white cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4) to use later in the session. Place the map inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.

SAY: This week we are exploring the story of the Great Commission.

ASK: Have you ever been asked to go somewhere unexpected? Where did you go?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "The Great Commission" (pp. 172–173) from the storybook or read Matthew 28:16-20 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for giving us ways to spread your love. Amen.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 6 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: Where would you go to spread God's love?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Bible dress-up clothes (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 6F–6G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: What is your favorite part of the story?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 2 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18).

Locate and cut out the Unit 2 story figures (Class Pack—p.19) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4)

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *share*.

- Read the definition of share from the Faith Word Poster.

ASK: What kinds of things do you like to share?

- Have a child place Mary Magdalene and Mary on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- Do you enjoy sharing?
 - Who do you share with?
 - Who shares with you?
 - Why do you think God wants us to share?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the map.

WONDER: How does this map remind you of the disciples in today's Bible story?

Experience Wonder

I Am Going – All Ages

- Have the children sit in a circle.

SAY: In the Bible story, Jesus sent his friends out into the world.

WONDER: If you were going on a journey all around the world, what would you take with you?

- Instruct the first child to say, “My name is ____, and I am bringing ____ around the world.” The item the child is bringing must start with the same letter as his or her first name. Play the game until everyone has had a turn.

Tip: To make it more challenging, you may have each child remember what the previous child named.

Wonder Ball – All Ages

Supplies: inflatable world globe

- Have the children sit in a circle on the floor, about arm’s length apart.

SAY: There are so many places in the world to share God’s love. We are going to pass the ball around the circle. Wherever your thumb is (*either one*) on the map, we will share God’s love to the people in that country by saying, “God loves the people of _____!”

WONDER: If you could go anywhere in the world to share about God, where would you go?

Tip: Read the name of the country to the child and locate it on the globe for all the children to see.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 2 Bible verse is Acts 4:32a. Let’s find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Acts in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Acts located in the New Testament? (*fifth book*) In what chapter of Acts is our verse located? (*4*) What is the verse number? (*32*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13).
Read the verse together.

ASK: What was the community of believers like? Where do you find a community of believers today?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 2 Faith Word (Reproducible Book 6F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Jesus and the 12 Dudes Who Did by Mindy MacDonald, Come with Me by Holly M. McGhee, quiet toys and soft items, maps, globes, paper; pens; pencils; crayons; markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 2 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 6F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw the favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Encourage children to explore the maps and globes.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

Preschool – Paper Cup Megaphone

Supplies: paper cups, chenille stems, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Cut out the bottom of a paper cup for each child. Cut two small slits on one side of each paper cup, about two inches apart.

- Give each child a cup and a chenille stem.
- Show the children how to place a chenille stem in the slits to make a handle.

SAY: We can use our megaphones to tell people how much Jesus loves them.

WONDER: How else could you tell people about Jesus' love?

Early Elementary – All Around the World

Supplies: picture of Earth, construction paper (green, blue), markers (blue, black, green), scissors

SAY: Jesus asks us to spread his love all around the world.

- Show the children the picture of the earth. Have each child draw a circle on paper and decorate the circle to look like the earth.
- Have the children cut four strips of construction paper. Show them how to fold the strips accordion-style and then glue one end of each strip to the earth circle to make it look like it has arms and legs.

SAY: You have an earth that looks like it can walk, run, give hugs, and offer so much love. You can spread Jesus' love to all the earth.

Older Elementary – Community of Believers

Prepare Ahead: Clear a space for playing, or locate an open space at your church that is available for use.

SAY: Today, we learned about how Jesus gave the disciples the task of growing the community of believers. Let's see if we can grow a group of believers in our class.

- Ask for a volunteer to be IT. Have the remaining children move quickly around the room.
- A child will be considered tagged if IT taps him or her on the shoulder and says, "Jesus loves you." That child will join IT by linking arms and helping tag another child.
- Continue until all children have been tagged.

Tip: If linking arms and tapping on the shoulder are not options, let the children simply walk together at an acceptable distance and invite others to join them verbally.

Intergenerational – Christianity

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Christianity" (Reproducible 6E) for participant.

- Give each participant a copy of "Christianity."

SAY: Christianity has changed in many ways over the years. This article tells us about a few of them.

- Invite the participants to read the article and write responses to the questions.

ASK: Was there anything in this article that surprised you?

- Invite the participants to discuss.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Sharing the Good News Through Witness

- Have the children stand in a circle.
- Guide the children through the following spiritual practice.

SAY: God’s love for everyone is a message worth sharing. It brings joy and happiness to those who believe in God. How does God bring joy and happiness to your life?

- Give the children time to share.

SAY: Repeat the following after me.

PRAY: God, thank you for helping me to share joy and happiness. Amen.

- Bless the children before they leave.

SAY: May you always share the good news of Jesus.

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids’ Book, Leader Guide—p. 128*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy “Family Celebration Letter” (p. 128) and the Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 6F–6G) if you have not yet done so already.*

SAY: Let’s look at your Take-Home Pages for today. Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages with each child.
- Send a copy of the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32a)

Peter and John – Acts 3:1-10

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

- Storytelling Puppets (Craft)
- I Can Share Good News (Journaling)
- Comic Strip (Art)
- My Sharing List (Response Activity)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

- Love Shared (Science)
- Walking, Leaping, Praising (Game)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

- Go-and-Tell Tag (Game)
- Temp-Changing Slime (Science)
- Paper Chain (Craft)
- What Can You Give? (Discussion)

Supplies At-a-Glance

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>crayons</i> | <i>washable markers</i> |
| <i>colored pencils</i> | <i>large spoon</i> |
| <i>markers</i> | <i>large bowl</i> |
| <i>scissors</i> | <i>measuring cups & spoons</i> |
| <i>pencils</i> | <i>container with lid</i> |
| <i>construction paper</i> | <i>magnifying glasses</i> |
| <i>glue</i> | <i>dolls</i> |
| <i>tape</i> | <i>play doctor kits</i> |
| <i>offering plate</i> | <i>stapler</i> |
| <i>markerboard and markers</i> | <i>slime ingredients (Reproducible Book 7E)</i> |
| <i>two cups of water</i> | |
| <i>paper towels</i> | |

Suggested Books

- God's Love Is a Warm Cookie* by Susan Jones
- Doctor White* by Jane Goodall

Tips for the Leader

- Welcome to *Celebrate Wonder*! Whether you are new to this program, or you have been using it for some time, there is much to explore as you embark on a faith journey with children. In this section, you will find tips for particular sessions, and the *Celebrate Wonder* line as a whole.
- This page also provides you with a session outline of activities and supply list.

Activities that are consistent in each session, such as Gather Together, Share a Story, Wonder with Me, Examine the Bible Verse, and Go in Peace are not included in this outline. Each activity in the outline requires supplies that are not included in your *Celebrate Wonder Kit*.

- As you prepare to lead, be sure to include any items you are using from the Class Pack.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: SHARE

Today's story illustrates the wonders of Jesus and his amazing power to heal. During biblical times, poor people who needed assistance would sit by the gates of the temple and ask for help from people who passed by. People sometimes would give them money, food, or clothes. Jesus instructed people to give to everyone who asked.

In the story, when a man who is crippled sees Peter and John, he immediately asks them for money (or a "gift"). However, Peter tells the man that they have no money for him and instead offers him something better. Peter commands the man to rise up in the name of Jesus and then pulls him up by the hand. The man is healed by the power of Jesus and begins to walk, leap, and praise God. He even joins Peter and John in the temple. People are amazed to see this man who was unable to move on his own for so long, up and moving about freely.

Children also encounter people who need help. They might not always know what to do. We can't always heal everyone, but we can help with a small task or assist one person at a time.

This story includes amazement and surprise, common responses to these kinds of healings. Like many of the stories in this unit, there is great mystery in what happened; they give children the space to wonder about Jesus and his teachings, healings, and ministries.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, be a witness to the love of Christ to people who are sick and shut in. Though we may not be able to heal everyone, we can share the love of Christ with others during times of sickness. Send cards to those in your church or in the wider community who are sick and shut in. Be sure to write a short note in each card to let the person know that she or he is loved, remembered, and prayed for.

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

Storytelling Puppets – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons, scissors, construction paper, glue or tape

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Storytelling Puppets" (Reproducible 7A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "Storytelling Puppets."

SAY: In our Bible story today, Peter and John share something very important with a man in need.

ASK: What are can you share with someone in need?

- Have the children color and cut out the puppets. Let them secure the puppets with tape or glue
- Help children act out a sharing scenario using the puppets.

I Can Share Good News – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "I Can Share Good News" (Reproducible 7B) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "I Can Share Good News."

SAY: In our Bible story, Peter and John share good news.

ASK: Did you know that you can share good news also? How would you have shared the good news of Jesus with the man at the gate at our Bible story?

- Encourage children to draw their own helping scenarios on the page.
- Invite willing volunteers to share what they have drawn.

Comic Strip – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, colored pencils or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Comic Strip" (Reproducible 7C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Comic Strip."

ASK: How do you imagine the Bible story?

- Encourage children to draw the events of the Bibles story as they imagine them.

My Sharing List – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "My Sharing List" (Reproducible 7D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "My Sharing List."

SAY: Stories of sharing teach us how God wants us to treat one another. Let's see if we can think of some ways to share.

- Encourage the children to fill in the page by writing or drawing things they can share in each category.
- Allow willing volunteers to share what they have written.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, white cloth, battery-operated candle, offering plate

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a white cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4) to use later in the session. Place the offering plate inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we will hear stories about sharing.

ASK: Have you ever shared something with someone who really needed it?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "Peter and John" (pp. 270–271) from the storybook or read Acts 3:1-10 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, teaching us how to share with others. Amen.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 7 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: What part of the story did you like best? Why?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 7F–7G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: What have you seen people sharing like Peter and John?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 2 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17).

Locate and cut out the Unit 2 story figures (Class Pack—p. 19) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4).

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *share*.

- Show the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster and invite the children to wonder about the image.

SAY: The definition of *share* is sharing the good news through witness.

ASK: What did Peter and John share?

- Have a child place Peter and John on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- What does sharing mean to you?
 - How do you share with others?
 - Do others share with you? How?
 - How would you share God's love with others?
 - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the offering plate.

SAY: The offering plate reminds us to share what God has given to us.

WONDER: What are some other ways that people at church share?

Experience Wonder

Love Shared – All Ages

Supplies: two cups of water, paper towels, washable markers

- Have each child color a small square on one end of a paper towel sheet. (Keep the colors within an inch on each end of the paper towel.)

SAY: As we share God’s love with others, they also share God’s love. And soon, there are lots of people who have heard of God’s love.

- Place one end of the paper towel into each cup. Let the children watch as the color spreads.

WONDER: I wonder who the man shared the good news with after he was healed.

Walking, Leaping, Praising – All Ages

Prepare Ahead: Make sure you have some open floor space for playing.

- Invite a child to be IT.
- Ask IT to stand on one side of the room and everyone else to stand on the other side.
- When IT says, “Walking,” children will begin slowing walking toward IT. When IT says, “Leaping,” children will slowly leap toward IT. When IT says, “Praising God,” children will dance in place.
- The first child to reach IT becomes the next IT, and the game starts over.
- Play the game as long as time allows.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 2 Bible verse is Acts 4:32a. Let’s find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Acts in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Acts located in the New Testament? (*fifth book*) In what chapter of Acts is our verse located? (*4*) What is the verse number? (*32*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13).
Read the verse together.

SAY: Our Bible verse teaches us how we should be in community with one another.

ASK: Where are other verses you like located? Why is important to read different verses in our Bibles?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 2 Faith Word (Reproducible Kids' Book, 6F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, God's Love Is a Warm Cookie by Susan Jones, Doctor White by Jane Goodall, quiet toys and soft items, stuffed items and dolls, play doctor kit, materials to make cards for sick people, paper, pencils, crayons, markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 2 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 6F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw a favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Encourage children to make cards for those who are sick.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

Preschool – Go-and-Tell Tag

- Assign two children to be Peter and John. Have "Peter" and "John" walk slowly throughout the room.
- Have Peter and John tag one child each and quickly run to different corners in the room, and then stay there.
- The tagged children then become Peter and John, and the game continues.
- Tagging continues until all children are spread out in the corners of the room.

SAY: You were all tagged by a friend of Jesus, so you are friends of Jesus too. Friends of Jesus share the good news with others. Look at all the people and places that were touched by the good news! Just like the healing of the man who couldn't walk, the good news spread fast.

WONDER: What good news do you want to share about Jesus?

Early Elementary – Temp-Changing Slime

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, large bowl, measuring cups and spoons, glass or plastic container with a lid, slime ingredients (see Reproducible 7E)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Temp-Changing" Slime (Reproducible 7E). Add the corn starch to the squirt bottles before class.

WONDER: Why do you think heat changes the slime? What happened when you touched the slime? Where have you seen other items that are heat sensitive?

SAY: In the Bible story, the man was healed and was changed. Our slime also changed. As the temperature of the slime changed, the thermochromic materials changed colors. This reaction also happens in mood rings and in some lipsticks and bathtub rubber duckies. There are two main types of thermochromic materials in the pigment, which reflect light and create heat.

WONDER: What does change mean to you? What or where have you seen change?

Older Elementary – Paper Chain

Supplies: construction paper, scissors, markers, crayons, colored pencils, stapler

- Give each child a piece of construction paper.
- Invite the children to cut their paper into strips, starting on the short side of the paper. The strips should be twelve inches long and one inch wide.
- Have the children write a prayer for someone else on each strip of paper.
- When the children are done, connect the paper strips together to make a chain. Do this by curving the first strip into a circle (with the words facing out) and stapling it in place. Thread the next strip through the paper circle, curve it into a circle, and staple it in place. Continue linking all the strips into a paper chain.

SAY: Prayer connects us. When we work together, we can find ways to help and heal others.

Tip: Tell the children their prayers will be shared with others. If they want to write a personal prayer, they may take it home instead of adding it to the prayer chain.

- Take some time to pray for those on your prayer chain.

Intergenerational – What Can You Give?

Supplies: markerboard and dry-erase markers

Prepare Ahead: Think about ways you can give when you don't have a lot of money.

SAY: Today, we learned about how Peter and John showed a man the love and power of Jesus without giving money.

ASK: What are some ways we can give and share the love of Jesus with others when we don't have money?

- Let the participants call out responses, and write them on the board.

SAY: It looks like there are many ways to give without money!

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Sharing the Good News Through Witness

- Have the children stand in a circle.
- Guide the children through the following spiritual practice.

SAY: Peter gave what he could to the man at the temple. He didn't have money, but he had healing power through Jesus. Let's talk about how we can share the love of Jesus with others.

- Give the children time to share.

SAY: Repeat the following after me.

PRAY: God, thank you for helping me to share the love of Jesus. Amen.

- Bless the children before they leave. Touch each child as you say this blessing: "May you always share the good news of Jesus."

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Family Celebration Letter" (p. 128) for each child.

SAY: Let's look at the Take-Home Pages for today (Reproducibles 7F–7G). Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages and the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.

God community of believers was of one heart and mind. (Acts 4:32a)

Believers Share – Acts 4:32-37

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

What Would You Share? (Activity)

Find and Share (Activity)

How Do You Say Share? (Matching Languages)

I Can Share with Others (Art)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

Sharing Circle (Game)

Super Sharing (Craft)

Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

Fruit Salad (Snack)

I Can Share (Game)

Who Has What Is Needed? (Art)

Sharing Response (Discussion)

Supplies At-a-Glance

crayons

large bowl

colored pencils

napkins

markers

various cut-up fruit

scissors

plastic spoons

pencils

ball of yarn

church directory

butcher paper

stickers

various art supplies

items to create

care kits for those in need

large spoon

Suggested Books

It's Mine! by Leo Lionni

How to Share with a Bear by Eric Pinde

Tips for the Leader

- This session includes a snack. Be sure to check for food allergies ahead of time.
- Choose the activities you would like and prep your supplies ahead of time. Make copies of reproducible pages that you plan on using.
- Did you know you can purchase full color activity pages that coincide with each session? If purchasing, consider sending the pages home along with the other take-home pages. Purchase at Cokesburykids.com.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: SHARE

This week's story is from the Book of Acts. It highlights the way the early Christians worked together for the good of everyone in their community. It says they "held everything in common"—rather than saying, "this is mine"—meaning that they shared and looked out for one another. By doing this, they created a community where no one was needy. They even sold their properties and houses to add to the shared wealth of their community. Their shared resources were managed by the apostles, who distributed them to those in need. This was not mandatory, but people who were able did this to share, and to honor God by sharing the resources God had provided. Sharing was a way of showing love and friendship.

As Christians today, we are called to share what we have with those in need. Sharing is hard for kids sometimes. It also can be hard for adults, as we might feel ill-equipped or unable to help those who need the most. We often want to hold close the things we have worked hard for. For many, today's story seems impossible. How could we live in a world where everyone shares all that they have? This might never be possible today, but we can find small and imaginative ways to share.

It is important that we acknowledge and help children see that many people are in need, but that there are ways we can share. This story also lends itself to conversation about the basic needs of all humans and how we assure all of God's people are cared for.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Choose a favorite charity to become involved with. Read about the ministry the charity is involved in. If possible, visit the charity and meet some of the people who have benefited from their resources. Pray for the people each day and discover what gift you have to share. For children, supporting an assisted-living facility is an excellent way for them to learn to share. They can make cards and possibly visit the facility. Put your hands to work as well as your heart.

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

What Would You Share? – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "What Would You Share?" (Reproducible 8A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "What Would You Share?"

SAY: Did you know that the early believers shared everything they had?

ASK: What would you be willing to share?

- Invite children to complete the activity on the page.

Find and Share – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, markers or crayons

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Find and Share" (Reproducible 8B) for each child.

ASK: What do you imagine life was like for the earlier believers?

SAY: See if you can find the objects hidden in the picture of the believers.

- Distribute a copy of "Find and Share" to each child.
- Encourage the children to complete the activity.

How Do You Say Share? – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "How Do You Say Share?" (Reproducible 8C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "How Do You Say Share?"

ASK: Did you know that people from cultures all around the world have a word that means share?

- Encourage the children to complete the page by matching the translations.

I Can Share with Others – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "I Can Share with Others" (Reproducible 8D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of “I Can Share with Others.”
- Encourage children to draw a picture of themselves sharing with others.

ASK: What did you draw?

- Invite willing participants to share about their drawings.

Come Together

Supplies: *Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, white cloth, battery-operated candle, church directory*

Prepare Ahead: *Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a white cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4) to use later in the session. Place the church directory inside the Wonder Box.*

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we are exploring stories about sharing.

ASK: Why do you think it’s important to share?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, “Believers Share” (pp. 272–273) from the storybook or read Acts 4:32–37 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for teaching us how to share. Amen.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: *Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player*

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 8 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: Would you be able to share everything you have with others? Why?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids’ Book, Bible dress-up clothes (optional)*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy today’s Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 8F–8G).*

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: What is your favorite part of the story?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 2 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17).

Locate and cut out the Unit 2 story figures (Class Pack—p. 19) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4)

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *share*.

- Read the definition of share from the Faith Word Poster.

ASK: What kinds of things do you like to share with others?

- Have a child place the widow and child on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- Do you enjoy sharing with others?
 - What are some things you enjoy sharing?
 - How does sharing make you feel?
 - Why do you think God wants us to share with others?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the church directory.

WONDER: How do the people in this directory remind you of our Faith Word?

Experience Wonder

Sharing Circle – All Ages

Supplies: none

- Have the children sit in a circle.

SAY: We are going to play a sharing game. This is what I want you to say: "I am a believer in Jesus, and I can share_____." I'll start: "I am a believer in Jesus, and I can share my shoes."

- Let every child have a turn and, if time allows, go around the circle again.

WONDER: What kinds of things do you think the early believers shared?

Tip: Sharing categories, such as food, clothes, and toys, may make it easier for younger children to think of something to share.

Super Sharing – All Ages

Supplies: construction paper, scissors, markers, crayons, stickers, tape

SAY: It's important to share. We are going to make super sharing bracelets to remind us of the super power given to us by God to share with others.

- Direct each child to cut a strip of paper to fit her or his wrist.
- Encourage the children to write the Bible verse on their bracelets: "The community of believers was one in heart and mind."
- Let the children decorate their bracelets.
- Help the children secure their bracelets to their arms using tape.

SAY: You are given a super special power to share with all of God's children.

Tip: Younger children will need help with writing the verse. As an alternative, you may consider writing the verse on the strips ahead of time and letting the children decorate around the verse.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 2 Bible verse is Acts 4:32a Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Acts in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Acts located in the New Testament? (*fifth book*) In what chapter of Acts is our verse located? (*4*) What is the verse number? (*32*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13).
Read the verse together.

ASK: What do you think it's like when people are one in heart and mind?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 2 Faith Word (Reproducible Book 6F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, It's Mine! by Leo Lionni, How to Share with a Bear by Eric Pinder, quiet toys and soft items, church directory from the Wonder Box, items to create care kits for those in need (small, nonperishable snacks; bottled water; new socks, hygiene items; etc.)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 2 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 6F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw the favorite part of today's Bible story.

- Encourage children to create a care kit for someone in need.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the “Go in Peace” section.

Preschool – Fruit Salad

Supplies: large bowl and spoon, paper bowls, napkins, plastic spoons, various cut-up fruit

Prepare Ahead: Wash and cut up fruit to divide into individual paper bowls.

- Give each child a bowl of fruit, a napkin, and a plastic spoon.

SAY: The believers of Jesus shared all they had, even their food. We could keep the bowl of fruit we each have or we can share the fruit with our friends by putting it all in this big bowl.

ASK: What do you think the believers of Jesus would have done?

WONDER: Why do you think we should share our fruit with others?

Tip: Check for food allergies ahead of time.

Early Elementary – I Can Share

Supplies: ball of yarn

SAY: Our Bible story is all about being in community and sharing. Being part of a community means that you are connected; that you care and often think about your community and its needs. Let’s play a game to remind us that we all can be connected through sharing.

- Have the children form a circle.
- Ask a child to toss the ball of yarn to another child while holding onto part of the yarn and say something he or she can share. Have the next child do the same.
- Continue until all children have had a turn and everyone is connected by the yarn.

Older Elementary – Who Has What Is Needed?

Supplies: butcher paper, art supplies (such as markers, crayons, colored pencils, stickers, pom-poms, glue)

Prepare Ahead: On the butcher paper, draw a large outline of the Christian fish symbol.

- Give one child responsibility for all the supplies.

SAY: (Child) has the supplies we need to do our art project. (Child) can decide who can use what to complete the project.

- Invite the children to color and decorate the fish.

SAY: The Christian fish symbol was something that brought Christians together when others did not like people who followed Jesus. We can create art to remember that we all are part of a special community that can share love.

- Observe how the children share supplies. After a while, remind children of the Bible story and of the importance of sharing.

WONDER: What was this activity like? Was everyone included? Did everyone share?

Intergenerational – Sharing Response

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pens or pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Sharing Response" (Reproducible 8E) for each participant.

SAY: Our Bible story is all about sharing. Let's each write how we would share in the scenarios on the page, and then discuss our responses.

- Give each participant a copy of "Sharing Response."
- Let the participants have time to respond to the prompts.
- Allow willing participants to share their responses and discuss together.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Sharing the Good News Through Witness

- Have each child find a partner.
- Guide the children through the following spiritual practice.

SAY: The believers of Jesus met together to pray, just like we do at church. Look at your partner and repeat this prayer after me: “Thank you, God, for my friend. I will share with my friends. Amen.”

- Bless the children before they leave.

SAY: May you always share the good news of Jesus.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for allowing us to share the love of Jesus with one another. Amen.

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids’ Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Family Celebration Letter” (p. 128) and the Take Home Pages (Reproducibles 8F–8G) if you have not yet done so already.

SAY: Let’s look at your Take-Home Pages for today. Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages with each child.
- Send a copy of the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Genesis Acts 4:32a)

Choosing the Seven – Acts 6:1-7

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

- My Hands Can Help (Journaling)
- Find the Leader (Game)
- Campaign Poster (Art)
- You Choose the Seven (Coloring)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

- Helping My Church (Service)
- Choose Seven (Sorting)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

- I Choose You (Game)
- The Service of the Seven (Reflection)
- Elected to Serve (Response Activity)
- You Are Chosen (Service/Planning)

Supplies At-a-Glance

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>crayons</i> | <i>markerboard and markers</i> |
| <i>colored pencils</i> | <i>seven each of several objects of your choosing</i> |
| <i>markers</i> | <i>plain cloth</i> |
| <i>scissors</i> | <i>fabric markers</i> |
| <i>pencils</i> | <i>fabric scissors (adult use only)</i> |
| <i>clipboards</i> | <i>one chair</i> |
| <i>stole</i> | <i>music player</i> |
| <i>2 washbasins</i> | <i>gift bags (1 per child)</i> |
| <i>plastic table cover</i> | |
| <i>dishwashing soap</i> | |
| <i>toys from the nursery</i> | |

Suggested Books

- The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister
- Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney

Tips for the Leader

- Welcome to *Celebrate Wonder*! Whether you are new to this program, or you have been using it for some time, there is much to explore as you embark on a faith journey with children. In this section, you will find tips for particular sessions, and the *Celebrate Wonder* line as a whole.
- This page also provides you with a session outline of activities and supply list.
- Activities that are consistent in each session, such as Gather Together, Share a Story, Wonder with Me, Examine the Bible Verse, and Go in Peace are not included in this outline. Each activity in the outline requires supplies that are not included in your *Celebrate Wonder Kit*.
- As you prepare to lead, be sure to prepare any items you are using from the Class Pack.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: SHARE

The story begins by describing a conflict between two groups in the early church. The issue involves the case of some widows not receiving enough food during the daily distribution of food. The Twelve call a meeting of all the disciples. The Twelve realize that they need to focus on prayer and proclaiming God's word rather than on serving food, so they ask the community to select seven disciples from among themselves to serve. They specify that the "new disciples" must be wise and filled with the Holy Spirit. This proposal pleases the whole community. The community selects seven people and presents them to the Twelve, who pray for them and lay hands on them. God's word continues to spread, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increases.

Children may wonder why the disciples needed more help or why they couldn't do it all on their own. We might have this problem too. Sometimes children say, "Don't help me. I can do it by myself!" But sometimes we actually need the help. It's OK to ask for help and to work together to spread God's love.

In the story, the Twelve recognized that their gifts to share with the community were prayer and proclaiming God's word. They needed help from these "new disciples," the Seven, to share their gifts for the distribution of food. This story provides us with an example of how to share our unique gifts in the Body of Christ. It shows that the disciples were paying attention; they wanted to provide more help for the community and then moved forward to organize that work. We all are called to find ways to unite and act in love for one another, each sharing our individual gifts and talents to benefit the larger goals of the faith.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, volunteer to do something to share your gifts with your community through service. Is there a shelter or community service agency where you can help? If you don't have time to volunteer this week, consider spending some time planning a service activity that you would like to do. Write your ideas down, research organizations, and put a date on the calendar for your activity.

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

My Hands Can Help – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons, markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "My Hands Can Help" (Reproducible 9A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "My Hands Can Help."

SAY: Did you know that people in the early church shared everything they had? They used their hands to help others.

ASK: What are some ways we can use our hands to help others?

- Have the children complete the page.
- Allow willing participants to share.

Find the Leader – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, clipboards

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Find the Leader" (Reproducible 9B) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Find the Leader."

SAY: You are going to move around the room. Ask a friend if she or he has a leadership quality listed. If your friend says yes, ask her or him to initial that box. Go around to all your friends until your chart is full.

- After the children have collected the initials, gather everyone together.

WONDER: What did you learn about your friends? What makes a good leader?

Campaign Poster – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Campaign Poster" (Reproducible 9C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Campaign Poster."

ASK: What do you think makes you a good leader?

- Encourage children to fill in and decorate the page to make a campaign poster for themselves as leaders.
- Invite willing volunteers to share with the class.

You Choose the Seven – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "You Choose the Seven" (Reproducible 9D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "You Choose the Seven."

SAY: The believers in today's Bible story chose seven people among them to be leaders.

ASK: What do you imagine the seven were like?

- Invite the children to complete the page by drawing faces for the disciples and decorating and coloring their clothes.
- Allow willing participants to respond.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, white cloth, battery-operated candle, a stole

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a white cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4) to use later in the session. Place the stole inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we have been exploring stories about sharing.

ASK: Have you ever been a leader? What did you do as a leader?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "Choosing the Seven" (pp. 274–275) from the storybook or read Acts 6:1-7 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for giving us leaders to help make sure everyone has what they need. Amen

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 9 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: What part of believers share is your favorite? Why?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 9F–9G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: What behavior have you seen in a leader who takes care of the community?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 2 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17).

Locate and cut out the Unit 2 story figures (Class Pack—p. 19) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4).

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *share*.

- Show the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster and invite the children to wonder about the image.

SAY: The definition of *share* is sharing the good news through witness.

ASK: How can you share the good news with others?

- Have a child place the group of seven disciples figure on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- What do you think makes a good leader?
 - Why do you think it's important to have good leaders?
 - Who do you look up to as a leader?
 - How can we be good leaders in our daily lives?
 - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the stole.
- SAY:** A stole is often worn by a pastor who is a leader of a church.
- WONDER:** What other things can you think of that help us to know who is a leader?

Experience Wonder

Helping My Church – All Ages

Supplies: two washbasins, plastic cover for table, dishwashing soap, towels, toys from the nursery

Prepare Ahead: Fill one basin with water and dishwashing soap. Fill the other basin with clean water. Ask the nursery coordinator for some toys the children could clean.

- Give each child a toy to wash in the basins and dry. Show them how to wash in the soapy water, rinse in the clean water, and dry off with the towel.

SAY: The friends of Jesus, the disciples, needed help with all the tasks they had to do to help people. They had the church pick seven wise and trusted people to help them. We can help at our church too. We can wash toys so the babies in the nursery have clean toys to play with. We help because we love God, our church, and the babies in the nursery.

WONDER: What are some other tasks we can do to help our church?

Choose Seven – All Ages

Supplies: seven each of several different objects (like seven rocks, seven rulers, seven pencils, seven crayons, seven markers, seven rubber bands, seven rings)

Prepare Ahead: Place all the objects in the middle of the table and mix them up.

SAY: The friends of Jesus chose seven people to help them. Seven is an important number in the story. Work together to separate the objects into correct piles.

WONDER: Why do you think they chose seven people instead of two people to help?

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 2 Bible verse is Acts 4:32a. Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Acts in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Acts located in the New Testament? (*fifth book*) In what chapter of Acts is our verse located? (*4*) What is the verse number? (*32*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13).
Read the verse together.

SAY: Our Bible verse teaches us how believers should be.

ASK: Where are other verses you like located? Why is it important to read different verses in our Bibles?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 2 Faith Word (Reproducible Kids' Book, 6F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister, Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney, quiet toys and soft items, materials for making stoles: fabric scissors (adult use only), plain cloth precut in the shape of stoles, fabric markers, paper, pencils, crayons, markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 2 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 6F) for each child. Precut cloth into the shape of stoles.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw a favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Encourage children to make and decorate their own stole.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

Preschool – I Choose You

Supplies: one chair, music player

- Have the children stand in a circle. Place the chair in the middle of the circle.
- Choose a child to be IT. Have IT sit in the chair, close his or her eyes, and point his or her arm out toward the circle. IT must keep pointing until you say to stop.
- Start the music. When the music starts, have the children begin walking to their right.
- After a minute or two, stop the music. When the music stops, see who IT is pointing at. IT opens his or her eyes and says to the selected child, "I choose you because ____." IT must come up with something unique or special about that child.
- The selected child then becomes IT.
- Play the game as long as time allows.

Early Elementary – The Service of the Seven

Supplies: paper, pencils, crayons, markers, colored pencils

SAY: In the Bible story, seven special people were chosen to help serve and spread the message of Jesus. Consider seven people in your life who could help you serve and spread the message.

WONDER: Who would you choose? Why?

- Have each child write or draw a picture of seven people who could help her or him serve others.
- Have willing volunteers share.

Older Elementary – Elected to Serve

Supplies: markerboard and dry-erase markers

SAY: We're going to hold an imaginary election of people to serve the community. We will elect seven people, like the community in our Bible story did.

ASK: Who would you elect to serve, and why?

- Allow the children to call out choices and reasons, and write them on the whiteboard. The choices can be people they know or people they don't know but respect and admire.
- If necessary, ask the children to narrow the list down by taking votes on whether to keep certain candidates.
- Keep narrowing the choices down until there are seven.

Intergenerational – You Are Chosen

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "You Are Chosen" (Reproducible 9E) for each participant.

- Give each child a copy of "You Are Chosen."

ASK: How do you feel about being a disciple? What important message do you have to share about Jesus?

- Encourage children to write or draw their response on the page.
- Invite willing volunteers to share with the class.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Sharing the Good News Through Witness

Supplies: gift bags (one per child)

- Give each child one of the gift bags.
- Guide the children through the following spiritual practice.

SAY: Helping others is like giving a gift. Hold your gift bags close to your heart. Close your eyes and think of one thing you can do to be a leader in your church. Repeat this prayer after me.

PRAY: Help me, God, to help others because I love them. Amen.

- Bless the children before they leave.

SAY: You are a blessing to God and others.

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Family Celebration Letter" (p. 128) for each child.

SAY: Let's look at the Take-Home Pages for today (Reproducibles 9F–9G). Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages and the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.

Love each other like the members of your family. (Romans 12:10a)

Peter and Tabitha – Acts 9:36-43

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

Sew a Shirt (Craft)

Ways to Serve (Journaling)

Peter and Tabitha (Puzzle)

Hidden Message (Puzzle)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

Sharing Shirts (Craft)

Fabric Guess (Sensory)

Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

Clothes of Love (Art)

Run and Tell (Game)

From All Perspectives (Drama)

Clothing Drive (Mission Activity)

Supplies At-a-Glance

crayons

colored pencils

thin-tip markers

scissors

pencils

cardstock

hole punch

yarn

glue

tape

plain t-shirts

*fabric paint or
makers*

cardboard

*various types of
fabric*

weaving loom

*large plastic
needles*

plastic mesh

clipboards

brown paper bags

*large plastic bins
or cardboard
boxes*

fabric scissors

Suggested Books

Extra Yarn by Mac Barnett

My Name is Sangoel by Karen Lynn

Williams & Khadra Mohammed

Tips for the Leader

- When leading, welcome children on their level and let them know you are glad to see them. When they arrive, ask children to share their favorite item of clothing that.
- Be sure to choose the activities you would like and prep your supplies ahead of time. Make copies of reproducible pages that you plan on using.
- Did you know you can purchase full color activity pages that coincide with each session? If purchasing, consider sending the pages home along with the other take-home pages. Purchase at Cokesburykids.com.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: LOVE

Today's Bible story is about a woman who was widowed named Tabitha. Her Greek name was Dorcas. Tabitha made beautiful clothing for the poorest women in her town, Joppa. In the Bible, women were completely dependent on men for their survival. If a woman's husband died, the woman's life took a drastic turn for the worst. Women were not allowed to own property, so if the husband died, they would be at the mercy of others to be able to live. Tabitha somehow had the resources to sew for others less fortunate.

Unfortunately, Tabitha became very ill and died. When the other disciples heard about Tabitha's death, they sent for Peter. Peter rushed right over and went upstairs where Tabitha's body lay. Many community members were there, crying and showing one another tunics and other clothing Tabitha had made. The presence of the community showed how dedicated Tabitha was to loving and serving others.

Peter asked the people to leave the room, and he knelt down and prayed. Peter then commanded Tabitha to get up, and she opened her eyes and sat up. Her friends were astounded and overjoyed at the same time.

One of the acts of love in this story is praying for one another, as Peter did for Tabitha. Tabitha showed love through service not only with her sewing, but also by performing other "good works and compassionate acts on behalf of those in need" (verse 36). The community also showed love for Tabitha in their efforts to bring Peter to town to pray for her. Through this story, you can help children to know that the exchange of loving gestures is part of being in the community of believers.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Who in your community needs love and support? Who do you rely on in hard times? This week, write down the names of those you love. Choose one name each day to lift up to God using the *practice of loving kindness*. Look up "Loving Kindness Meditation" online, and use this practice to hold those you love in your thoughts and prayers

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

Sew a Shirt – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, cardstock, crayons, single hole punch, yarn, scissors, tape (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Sew a Shirt" (Reproducible 10A) on to cardstock for each preschooler. Cut out the shirt and punch the holes out of each shirt.

- Give each preschooler a shirt and some yarn.

SAY: In our Bible story today, we will learn about a woman named Tabitha who made clothes for her community.

ASK: How can you help others?

- Encourage the children to color their shirt.
- Show the children to thread the yarn through the holes around the border of the shirt. Secure the yarn at the end with tape.

Tip: If children have a hard time threading the yarn, make a more solid end by wrapping tape around one end of the yarn.

Ways to Serve – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Ways to Serve" (Reproducible 10B) for each child.

- Distribute a copy of "Ways to Serve" to each child.

SAY: This month we will hear stories about people in the early church who loved and served others, like Jesus called them to do.

ASK: What are ways that you can serve?

- Encourage children to write and/or draw their ideas on the page.

Peter and Tabitha – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, CEB Bibles, pencils, colored pencils or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Peter and Tabitha" (Reproducible 10C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Peter and Tabitha."

SAY: Our Bible story today is about the disciple Peter and a woman in the early church named Tabitha.

ASK: What do you think will happen in this story?

- Encourage the children to solve the puzzle and complete the page. Children may look up Acts 9:36-43 to help them.

Hidden Message – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, colored pencils or thin-tipped markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Hidden Message" (Reproducible 10D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Hidden Message."

SAY: In our bible story, Tabitha worked with fabric and made clothing. Let's see if we can find a hidden message in this tapestry (a tapestry is a large, decorative piece of fabric).

- Encourage children to solve the puzzle by coloring in the spaces with dots.
- Invite the children to share the hidden message out loud when they solve it.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, green cloth, battery-operated candle, a piece of fabric cut in to the shape of a heart

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a green cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21) to use later in the session. Place the fabric heart inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we will hear stories about how Jesus' followers loved and served others.

ASK: Is it easy or hard to love and serve others?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "Peter and Tabitha" (pp. 284–285) from the storybook or read Acts 9:36-43 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for stories of the people who started your church. Amen.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 10 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: Why do you think Peter prayed before he helped Tabitha?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Bible dress-up clothes (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 10F–10G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: Who was loving in the Bible story?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18).

Locate and cut out the Unit 3 story figures (Class Pack—p. 3) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21).

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *love*.

- Read the definition of love from the Faith Word Poster.

ASK: Who do you love? Who do you know that is loving?

ASK: One way to show love is by serving others, like Tabitha and Peter.

- Have a child place the "service" flower on Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- What kinds of things have you made for others to show them that you love them?
 - How do you think the people in Tabitha's community knew that Peter could help her?
 - How did Tabitha show love? Peter? the community?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the fabric heart.

WONDER: How do you show love to your community?

Experience Wonder

Sharing Shirts – All Ages

Supplies: plain t-shirts of various sizes (one for each child), fabric paint, cardboard, scissors, smocks

Prepare Ahead: Cut cardboard rectangles that will fit inside the T-shirts. Place one of these cardboard pieces inside each t-shirt.

- Give each child a t-shirt and a smock. Ask the children to put on their smock.

WONDER: Why do you think Tabitha made clothing for her community?

- Invite the children to decorate their t-shirts. Encourage them to write or draw something on their shirt that they want to say to their community.

WONDER: What did you write or draw on your shirt? Why?

- Let the shirts dry.

Fabric Guess – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, different types of fabric (such as cotton, silk, wool, denim), brown paper bags, clipboards, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Fabric Guess" (Reproducible 10E) for each child or pair of children. Place one type of fabric in each paper bag.

- Have the children sit in a circle on the floor. Give each child or pair a copy of "Fabric Guess."

SAY: Tabitha made clothing for her community. We are going to guess what types of fabrics are inside these bags.

- Pass the first bag to a child next to you. Have the child close his or her eyes, feel the fabric, and guess what type of fabric is in the bag. Pass the bag all the way around the circle.
- Have children record their guess on their paper.
- Pass each bag of fabric around one at a time and have children continue to record their guesses.

SAY: There are many types of fabrics to use to make clothing. There are also many ways we can help our community.

Tip: If guessing the fabrics seems too difficult, pair up children to work together or write a list of the types of fabric to help the children.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 3 Bible verse is Romans 12:10a. Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Romans in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Romans located in the New Testament? (*sixth book*) In what chapter of Romans is our verse located? (*12*) What is the verse number? (*10*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16).
Read the verse together.

WONDER: What does this Bible verse mean?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 3 Faith Word (Reproducible Book 10F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Extra Yarn by Mac Barnett, My Name Is Sangoel by Karen Lynn Williams & Khadra Mohammed, quiet toys and soft items, weaving loom, large plastic needles, yarn, plastic mesh, paper, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 3 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 10F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw the favorite part of today's Bible story. Encourage the children to draw what they think Tabitha's friends looked like in the story.
- Encourage children to practice weaving or sewing.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

Preschool – Clothes of Love

Supplies: cardstock, fabric cut in shapes of clothes, glue, child-friendly scissors, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Cut out clothes in the shape of dresses, pants, skirts, and shirts from the material.

- Give each child a piece of cardstock.

SAY: Tabitha made beautiful clothes for her friends, and they loved her.

- Have each child draw a person on the cardstock, and have the child glue the clothes on the person.

WONDER: How can you help someone who needs clothes if you can't sew?

Tip: Construction paper can be substituted for the material, and the children can cut out their own pieces of clothing.

Early Elementary – Run and Tell

Supplies: 2 lengths of fabric (each about 6' long)

Prepare Ahead: Clear or locate a space to play.

SAY: In our Bible story, some community members went to tell Peter about Tabitha because they cared about her. Peter came back with them because he cared as well. They all showed love for Tabitha. Let's play a game to remind us of their acts of love.

- Have the children form two teams, and ask each team to form a line.
- Give one child from each team a length of cloth, and send that child to the opposite side of the room from his or her team.
- Whisper a message, such as "Come and show love," to each person holding the cloth.
- Have the children holding the cloth move quickly across the room and whisper the message to the next person in line. Have the child receiving the message grab the other end of the cloth and move back across the room with the first child.
- The second child will repeat the actions of the first. Continue until all members of one team have reached the other side of the room

Older Elementary – From All Perspectives

- Divide the children evenly into three groups.

ASK: How would this story be different if told from the perspective of Tabitha? Peter? Tabitha's friends?

- Assign each group a different perspective. Instruct each group to come up with a short skit that tells the Bible story from that perspective.
- Give the groups time to plan and practice, then invite groups to share their drama with the other groups.

Tip: If your group is larger, you can split up into more than three groups and let more than one group tell the story from each perspective.

Intergenerational – Clothing Drive

Supplies: large plastic bins or cardboard boxes, paper, markers

SAY: Our Bible story today taught us the importance of caring for our community. Many people in our community are in need of clothes. How can we help them?

- Have participants brainstorm about what items to collect for those in need.
- Work together to create signs for the bins or boxes to collect the items.
- Place the bins in a convenient location in your church and develop a plan for asking for donations.

PRAY: God, help us bless others with these clothing donations. Amen.

- When the bins are full, donate the items locally.

Tip: For suggestions on what to donate/collect, see if your local community service group publishes a donations list.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Love Through Service

- Guide the children through the following spiritual practice.

SAY: There are so many people doing things for others out of love. Name someone you know who does things for others, and we will pray for them. I will start; I pray for teachers. Repeat the following after me.

PRAY: Jesus, thank you for teachers.

- After all the children have mentioned someone, end the prayer with, “Amen.”

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids’ Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Family Celebration Letter” (p. 128) and the Take Home Pages (Reproducibles 10F–10G) if you have not yet done so already.

SAY: Let’s look at your Take-Home Pages for today. Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages with each child.
- Send a copy of the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.

Love each other like the members of your family. (Romans 12:10a)

The Church Grows – Acts 9:26-31

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

- My Church and My Friends (Drawing)
- Church Memory Game (Coloring/Game)
- Imperfect People (Reflection)
- Speak for Me (Verbal Activity)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

- I See You (Craft)
- In Your Shoes (Game)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

- Growing Church (Game)
- My Church (Art)
- A Different Way (Storytelling/Drama)
- Church Invitations (Outreach)

Supplies At-a-Glance

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <i>crayons</i> | <i>toy people</i> |
| <i>colored pencils</i> | <i>dot stickers</i> |
| <i>markers</i> | <i>paper cups</i> |
| <i>scissors</i> | <i>washable paint</i> |
| <i>pencils</i> | <i>paintbrushes</i> |
| <i>cardstock</i> | <i>various art supplies</i> |
| <i>envelopes</i> | <i>battery-operated votive candles</i> |
| <i>nesting dolls or boxes</i> | <i>different types of shoes</i> |
| <i>tape</i> | <i>interlocking building blocks</i> |
| <i>chenille stems</i> | |

Suggested Books

- Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae
- You Will Be My Friend!* by Peter Brown

Tips for the Leader

- As you prepare to lead, organize items you are using from the Class Pack. Make copies of pages you'll need from the Reproducible Kids' Book.
- Part of this session focuses on the growth and life of the church. Be sensitive to any visitors you may have who may not be as familiar with church life.
- Check in with children to see if they can remember this month's Bible verse and Faith Word.
- This month is all about the word love! Think of random acts of kindness and love that you can show to the children in your group throughout the week.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: LOVE

This week's story takes place after Paul's (Saul's) conversion to Christianity. The text says that Paul tries to join the other disciples when he arrives in Jerusalem, but they doubt Paul's sincerity as a disciple of Jesus. Up until his experience of meeting the Lord on the road to Damascus and his experience of blindness and healing, Paul was an enemy of Christianity and a persecutor of those who practiced the faith.

The disciples do not trust that Paul has changed. Barnabas brings Paul to the apostles and serves as a witness to Paul's conversion story. The courage Barnabas shows in standing up in love for his friend, Paul, makes a large impact on the new church. The Christian leaders could turn on Barnabas because of his support of Paul, but they listen to him and accept his words. The story tells us that following this, there is a time of peace for the church in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. The church grows in strength and reverence for the Lord, as well as in the number of people. This growth is attributed to the Holy Spirit.

This week's story contains several acts of love. Paul showed love to God by serving God and preaching. Barnabas showed love by speaking up for Paul. The community of believers showed love to Paul by accepting him. You'll want your children to know that love can look like different things in different situations and to understand that they may be called on to love people in their lives in different ways at different times, but all forms of love are valid.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, reflect on the different ways to show love. Journal about the ways you love people in your life. Are there other ways you are called to love? Is there someone you need to stand up for, like Barnabas did? Is there someone like Paul you are called to protect? Is there someone you need to share God's love with, as Paul shared God's love through speaking? Challenge yourself to love in different situations.

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

My Church and My Friends – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "My Church and My Friends" (Reproducible 11A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "My Church and My Friends."

ASK: Who are your friends at church?

- Encourage the children to draw their church friends.
- Invite children to color the page.

Church Memory Game – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, cardstock, crayons, scissors, envelopes (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Church Memory Game" (Reproducible 11B) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Church Memory Game."

SAY: Today we will hear a Bible story about the church growing. Jesus' followers began a church that started out small, and has grown into many churches today.

ASK: Are all churches the same?

- Encourage the children to color the different churches and cut out the cards.
- Invite them to partner up and play a game of memory matching with their cards. Children may take their card game home in an envelope if they wish.

Imperfect People – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, colored pencils or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Imperfect People" (Reproducible 11C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Imperfect People."

SAY: Our Bible story today is about Saul, who we know as Paul. We will learn how Saul made mistakes, but God still used him anyways.

- Encourage children to respond to the journal prompt on the page.

Speak for Me – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Speak for Me" (Reproducible 11D) for each child.

SAY: In our Bible story, Barnabas speaks up for Saul when people did not believe Saul had changed and would treat them kindly. Sometimes in life, we need someone to speak for us. Let's practice speaking for others by getting to know another person in the room.

- Distribute copies of "Speak for Me" and have the children form pairs.
- Let the children interview one another by using the questions on the page and then writing the answers their partner gives.
- Have each pair take a turn presenting information about each other to the class.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, green cloth, battery-operated candle, nesting dolls or boxes

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a green cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21) to use later in the session. Place the nesting dolls or boxes in the Wonder Box.

- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we are learning about how the early Christians loved one another as they helped the church grow.

ASK: Have you ever had to stand up for someone? Or had someone stand up for you? What did that feel like?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "The Church Grows" (pp. 282–283) from the storybook or read Acts 9:26–31 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for churches all over the world. Amen.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 11 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: What was your favorite part of the story? Why?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 11F–11G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: Who showed love in the Bible story?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18).

Locate and cut out the Unit 3 story figures (Class Pack—p. 3) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21).

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *love*.

- Show the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster and invite the children to read or recite the definition.

ASK: Who do you love outside of your family? Who loves you?

- Have a child place the forgiveness flower on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- Is it sometimes hard to love someone?
 - How do you think Paul felt when the Christian leaders didn't trust him?
 - Why do you think Barnabas spoke up for Paul?
 - Does love change us?
 - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the nesting dolls or boxes.

WONDER: These dolls (*or boxes*) are all one until you separate them. How are the dolls similar to the way a church grows?

Experience Wonder

I See You – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, markers, crayons, scissors, chenille stems, tape
Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "I See You" (Reproducible 11E) for each child.

SAY: We sometimes see people in a certain way. We might think they are mean or unfriendly, but we can see who they really are when we get to know them.

- Distribute copies of "I See You." Invite each child to choose a glasses frame and to color it and cut it out.
- Show how to attach a chenille stem on each side and fit them to the ears.

WONDER: What kinds of people do you see in the world? Is there someone in your life you could see differently?

In Your Shoes – All Ages

Supplies: different types of shoes

- Have the children divide into two teams, and have each team form a line. Place the various types of shoes on the other side of the room, and mix them up.

SAY: We do not always understand why someone acts a certain way. But when we put ourselves in someone else's shoes, we might be able to see who they truly are. To put ourselves in another's shoes means to see things from another perspective.

- Tell the children that the two teams are going to participate in a relay race. The first person on each team will walk quickly to the other side of the room, put on a pair of matching shoes, walk back to her or his team, and take off the shoes.
- The next child will put on the shoes, walk back to the pile of shoes, take off the shoes, put on a different pair of shoes, walk back to her or his team, and take off the shoes.
- Continue until all players have walked in the shoes. The team that completes the task first wins.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 3 Bible verse is Romans 12:10a. Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Romans in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Romans located in the New Testament? (*sixth book*) In what chapter of Romans is our verse located? (*12*) What is the verse number? (*10*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16).
Read the verse together.

ASK: What are some situations where you can apply this Bible verse in your everyday life?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 3 Faith Word (Reproducible Kids’ Book, 10F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Giraffes Can’t Dance by Giles Andreae, You Will Be My Friend! by Peter Brown, quiet toys and soft items, interlocking building blocks, toy people, paper, crayons, markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 3 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 10F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw a favorite part of today’s Bible story.
- Encourage children to build different types of churches.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the “Go in Peace” section.

Preschool – Growing Church

Supplies: package of dot stickers (at least one sheet per child)

SAY: Barnabas loved Paul and Jesus, the Christian leaders loved Barnabas and Jesus, and Paul loved Jesus. The church grew because of all the love they shared! When you tell someone about Jesus, that person wants to tell others. When you treat people like Jesus treats people, that person notices and wants to know more about Jesus. If I share Jesus’ love with each of you, then you will share with others and more people will know about Jesus’ love.

- Place a dot sticker on each child as you say, “Jesus loves you.”
- Give each child a sheet of dot stickers.
- Encourage the children to place a dot sticker on another child while saying, “Jesus loves you.”
- Continue until all the dot stickers are gone.

WONDER: How else can you share Jesus’ love?

Early Elementary – My Church

Supplies: washable paint, table covering, paper cups, paintbrushes, paper, smocks

Prepare Ahead: Cover the table, and place paints and water into the cups.

- Give each child a piece of paper.

SAY: Paul was welcomed into the church, even though some of the leaders didn't trust him. With Barnabas's help and encouragement, Paul became friends with the leaders and continued to spread God's love and create churches everywhere he went. We have many churches today, and they all look different.

- Have each child paint a picture of the church.

WONDER: Who loves and encourages you?

Older Elementary – A Different Way

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Saul's disagreement with the Greek-speaking Jews in the story got a little out of hand. Let's see if we can come up with different, more loving ways that the situation could have been resolved.

- Divide the children into groups, and have them choose a strong reader to read the Bible story aloud to them.
- Let each group work together to come up with a skit showing a better method of resolving the conflict in the story.
- Allow each group to perform their skit for the class.

SAY: As you can see, there are a lot of ways this situation might have been handled differently.

ASK: What does this mean for us when we are trying to resolve conflicts in our own lives?

Intergenerational – Church Invitations

Supplies: paper, markers, various art supplies

SAY: In our Bible story today, we learned that the church grew because Jesus' followers showed love and forgiveness. One way that we can show love to our neighbors is by inviting them to church!

- Encourage participants to work together to create invitations to your church.
- Make a plan for how you will distribute the invitations or who you will invite.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Creativity Through Service

Supplies: battery-operated votive candles (one for each child)

- Gather the children around the Wonder Table, and light the LED candle.

SAY: Today, we learned about how the church grew. Let's remind ourselves of how the light of Christ spreads and brings us together in loving community.

- Distribute a candle to each child.
- Have the children form a circle.
- Join the circle and start the activity by turning on the candle of the child next to you and saying, "I welcome you to the community of believers with the love of Jesus."
- Have each child repeat your action and words until all the candles are lit.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for giving us communities to love us in so many ways. Amen.

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Family Celebration Letter" (p. 128) for each child.

SAY: Let's look at the Take-Home Pages for today (Reproducibles 11F–11G). Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages with each child.
- Send a copy of the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.

Love each other like the members of your family. (Romans 12:10a)

Pentecost – Acts 2:1-12

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

- Pentecost Flame (Coloring)
- Many Languages (Matching)
- Special Day (Puzzle)
- Wind and Flame Blow Painting (Art)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

- Wind and Flame Reverse Tag (Game)
- Experience the Sound (Game)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

- Birthday Cards (Craft)
- My Words (Language Activity)
- Wind Chimes (Craft)
- Pentecost Collage (Collaborative Art)

Supplies At-a-Glance

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>crayons</i> | <i>smocks</i> |
| <i>colored pencils</i> | <i>wind chimes</i> |
| <i>markers</i> | <i>LED tealights
(1 per child)</i> |
| <i>scissors</i> | <i>plastic cups
(1 per child)</i> |
| <i>pencils</i> | <i>yarn</i> |
| <i>straws</i> | <i>beads and bells</i> |
| <i>small canvases
(1 per child)</i> | <i>paper punch</i> |
| <i>food coloring</i> | <i>white construction
paper</i> |
| <i>4 bowls</i> | <i>red decorating
items such as yarn,
ribbon, etc.</i> |
| <i>4 water droppers</i> | |
| <i>water</i> | |
| <i>white paper</i> | |
| <i>table coverings</i> | |

Suggested Books

- One Family* by George Shannon
- The Day When God Made Church—A Child's First Book About Pentecost* by Rebekah McLeod Hutto

Tips for the Leader

- Welcome children on their level and let them know you are glad to see them.
- Be sure to choose the activities you would like and prep your supplies ahead of time. Make copies of the reproducible pages you plan on using.
- Did you know you can purchase full color activity pages that coincide with each session? If purchasing, consider sending the pages home along with the other take-home pages. Purchase at Cokesburykids.com.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: LOVE

As Christians today, we celebrate Pentecost as the birthday of the church. Pentecost originated as a Jewish festival, one of three pilgrimage feasts when Jews gathered in Jerusalem. Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit. During this time of waiting in Jerusalem, while the disciples and other followers of Jesus were celebrating Pentecost, the Holy Spirit arrived, sounding like the wind and appearing like fire. In the Bible, fierce wind and fire often are used as symbols of God's presence.

This was a great mystery. Everyone was able to understand and speak in other languages and knew God was working in their lives in mysterious ways. The excitement surrounding the arrival of the Holy Spirit attracted a crowd. Many people were shocked, surprised, and confused. Like many of us, they wondered what all this might mean.

The Spirit empowered all of God's people, not just the disciples, and gave them the courage to continue to spread the good news about Jesus. We may not hear rushing wind or see flames of fire descending on one another, but God's Spirit continues to empower us and give us the courage to do God's work.

The concept of the Holy Spirit is sometimes a difficult one for children and adults to understand. Essentially, the Spirit can be explained as God's presence in our lives. It guides us, comforts us, and strengthens our faith. It is another way that God shows love for us. Remember that it is okay for there to be questions that can't be answered. The main thing you'll want the children to come away with is an understanding that God is with them through the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

As you prepare to teach your children about the Holy Spirit, take a few moments to engage in the following spiritual practice: Sit in a quiet space and light a candle. Close your eyes and listen for what the Spirit is saying to you today. How is the Spirit guiding, comforting, or strengthening you? Consider doing this practice daily during the week leading up to your class.

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

Pentecost Flame – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Pentecost Flame" (Reproducible 12A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "Pentecost Flame."

SAY: Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the church.

ASK: What are some things that make birthdays special?

Many Languages – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Many Languages" (Reproducible 12B) for each child.

SAY: God created so many wonderful languages. Let's explore some of them.

WONDER: What do you think the word *worship* sounds like in other languages?

- Distribute a copy of "Many Languages" to each child.
- Encourage the children to complete the activity.

Special Day – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons or colored pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Special Day" (Reproducible 12C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Special Day."

ASK: Why do you think Pentecost is a special day for the church?

- Encourage the children to complete the page.

Wind and Flame Blow Painting – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, straws (one for each child); small canvases (one for each child); paper; red, yellow, blue, and green food coloring; four bowls; at least four droppers; water; white paper; table covering; smocks

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Wind and Flame Blow Painting" (Reproducible 12D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Wind and Flame Blow Painting."

ASK: What do you imagine Pentecost was like?

- Encourage children to complete the activity.

Come Together

Supplies: *Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, red cloth, battery-operated candle, wind chimes*

Prepare Ahead: *Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a red cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21) to use later in the session. Place the wind chimes inside the Wonder Box.*

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.

SAY: This week we are exploring the story of Pentecost.

ASK: Do you remember why Pentecost is an important day for our church.

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, “Pentecost” (pp. 268–269) from the storybook or read Acts 2:1-41 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: *Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player*

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 12 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: How would you have reacted when the Holy Spirit arrived?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids’ Book, Bible dress-up clothes (optional)*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy today’s Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 12F–12G).*

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: What is your favorite part of the story?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18).

Locate and cut out the Unit 3 story figures (Class Pack—p. 3) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21).

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *love*

- Read the definition of love from the Faith Word Poster.

ASK: Who or what do you love?

- Have a child place the faith flower on the Wonder Story Mat.
 - Where do you see love in today's Bible story?
 - What emotions do you think the disciples felt at Pentecost?
 - How would you have felt?
 - How does the Holy Spirit show us love?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the wind chimes.

WONDER: How do these wind chimes remind you of our Bible story?

Experience Wonder

Wind and Flame Reverse Tag – All Ages

Supplies: LED tea light candle for each child

- Ask for two or three volunteers to be IT. These children will represent the wind and will move around the room in a manner they believe represents a howling wind (movement and noises of their choice are allowed).
- Give each of the remaining children an LED tea light candle. Allow them to hold the candles but not to turn them on. These children must remain still and quiet and wait for a child representing the wind to pass by.
- The children who are holding the candles will attempt to tag those who are representing the wind by tapping them on the shoulder as the wind children move by them. (This is the reverse of a tag game where IT attempts to tag the larger group of children.)
- Once a child with a candle taps a child representing the wind, the child with the candle must ask, "What does it mean?"

- The child representing the wind will then turn on the other child's LED candle and move on being the wind. The child who is holding the candle may join the wind in moving around the room as well, or he or she may choose to remain standing with his or her candle. Continue until all candles are lit.

ASK: How do wind and flame usually interact? What do you think it means that the wind and flame interacted differently in our Bible story and in our game?

Experience the Sound – All Ages

Supplies: none

- Assign each child one of the words in the phrase "change your hearts and lives." Then have them say their word over and over again at the same time as the other children. Each child may say her or his word as fast or as slow as she or he likes. Eventually, with all of the children saying something different at the same time, but at different paces, the sound should begin to be jumbled and make it difficult for the children to hear any word clearly besides their own. The children will get an idea of what it was like to hear many languages, yet hear only their own clearly.

ASK: What was it like to hear so many sounds at once? What do you think it was like for the people in the Bible story?

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 3 Bible verse is Romans 12:10a. Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Romans in the Old or New Testament? (*New*) Where is the Book of Romans located in the New Testament? (*sixth book*) In what chapter of Romans is our verse located? (*12*) What is the verse number? (*10*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16).
Read the verse together.

ASK: What do you think it means to everyone like members of your family?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 3 Faith Word (Reproducible Book 10F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, The Day When God Made Church—A Child’s First Book About Pentecost by Rebekah McLeod Hutto, One Family by George Shannon, quiet toys and soft items, bubbles, pinwheels, flashlights, glow sticks, dolls with different skin tones, dollhouse

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 3 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 10F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw the favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Encourage children to take turns playing with the wind and light items and the dolls and dollhouse.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the “Go in Peace” section.

Preschool – Birthday Cards

Supplies: paper, crayons or markers, a variety of art supplies

SAY: Today, we’re going to make some cards to celebrate the birthday of the church!

- Give each child paper and art supplies.
- Encourage the children to design their own birthday card.
- Display the cards in your classroom.

Early Elementary – My Words

Supplies: paper, pens, pencils, crayons, markers

- Invite each child to come up with her or his very own word, write a definition for the word, and draw a picture of the word.
- Invite willing volunteers to share their word with the group.

WONDER: How did you decide on your word? Was it hard or easy to make up your own word?

Older Elementary – Wind Chimes

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, plastic cups (one for each child), markers, yarn, scissors, beads, bells, paper punch

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Wind Chimes" (Reproducible 12E).

- Distribute supplies, and let each child decorate a cup label (Reproducible 12E) with markers.
- Direct the children to thread beads and bells onto pieces of yarn.
- Have the children punch holes in their cups around the mouth and one hole through the bottom center.
- Invite the children to tie the pieces of yarn with beads and bells through the holes around their cup.
- Have them thread a piece of yarn through the hole in the bottom of their cup and knot it inside the cup to make a hanger.

WONDER: Where will you put your wind chime? What does the wind sound like?

Intergenerational – Pentecost Collage

Supplies: white construction paper; red items such as yarn, material, ribbon; glue

- Give each participant a piece of white construction paper.
- Let the participants glue the red items of their choice on the white construction paper.

SAY: Red is the color of Pentecost because red reminds us of flames. When we see our red picture, we will remember that Jesus came to his friends on Pentecost through the Spirit, so they would know they were not alone. We know that Jesus is always close to us too.

WONDER: When do you feel close to Jesus?

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Love Through Service

Supplies: Wonder Table

- Gather the children in a circle near the Wonder Table.

WONDER: What is the Holy Spirit?

SAY: The Holy Spirit is like your breath. You can feel it, but you cannot see it. The Holy Spirit is one way we can feel God’s love. This is a wonderful mystery.

- Invite the children to participate as you guide them through the spiritual practice.

SAY: Hold your hand up and blow on it.

Feel the warmth of the air on your skin.

Blow gently on your hand several more times.

SAY: Anytime you need to remember God is with you, you can do this practice. The Holy Spirit is always present and wraps each of you in warmth and love.

PRAY: Holy Spirit, we feel your presence all around. Help us know you are always with us. Amen.

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids’ Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Family Celebration Letter” (p. 128) and the Take Home Pages (Reproducibles 12F–12G) if you have not yet done so already.

SAY: Let’s look at your Take-Home Pages for today. Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages with each child.
- Send a copy of the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.

Love each other like the members of your family. (Romans 12:10a)

Love in Action – Romans 12:9-18

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

Practice Writing Love (Writing)
Color and Reflect (Coloring/Reflection)
Love Word Search (Puzzle)
Bible Verse Heart (Coloring)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

Words of Love (Journaling)
Grow Love (Nature)
Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

Listen to Your Heart (Game)
Love Banner (Collaborative Art)
Love Cookies (Cooking)
Live Out the Scripture (Discussion)

Supplies At-a-Glance

<i>crayons and markers</i>	<i>large white paper</i>
<i>colored pencils</i>	<i>display supplies</i>
<i>pencils</i>	<i>variety of art supplies</i>
<i>scissors</i>	<i>stove with oven</i>
<i>heart-shaped item</i>	<i>oven mits</i>
<i>seasonal flowers</i>	<i>baking sheets</i>
<i>gardening gloves and tools</i>	<i>refrigerated sugar cookie dough</i>
<i>water</i>	<i>rolling pin</i>
<i>masking tape</i>	<i>tube icing</i>
<i>large cutout hearts</i>	<i>zip sandwich bags</i>
<i>plastic heart cookie cutters</i>	<i>handwashing supplies</i>
<i>soft modeling dough</i>	

Suggested Books

Love by Matt de la Peña
Last Stop on Market Street
by Matt de la Peña

Tips for the Leader

- This page provides you with a session outline of activities and a supply list. Activities that are consistent in each session, such as Gather Together, Share a Story, Wonder with Me, Examine the Bible Verse, and Go in Peace are not included in this outline. Each activity in the outline requires supplies that are not included in your *Celebrate Wonder Kit*.
- This session includes a snack. Be sure to check for food allergies ahead of time.
- As you plan to lead, be sure to prepare any items you are using from the Class Pack.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: LOVE

In our Scripture today, Paul explains what love should look like for both the church and others in the community. Paul calls for a sincere love without pretending. He says that we should hate evil and cling to what is good. We should love one another like family and show honor to one another.

He also says we should serve the Lord enthusiastically. We are to find happiness in hope and stand our ground when we are in trouble. Paul encourages devoted prayer and contribution to the needs of others (including hospitality). We must celebrate with those who are happy and cry with those who are sad.

Paul calls on us to bless people who harass us and not curse them, as Jesus taught. We are to treat one another as equals and not think of ourselves as better than anyone else. We are to befriend those who have no status. We are not to seek revenge on those who have wronged us, and we are to show respect for the beliefs of those who believe something different from us. Most importantly, we are to live in peace with everyone. We are called to love.

But love can be hard. It might seem impossible to demonstrate this kind of love. How can we possibly always be loving? This story shows many ways to love. We can't always show perfect love, but we can choose one way we will offer our very best love. Love is not about perfection. Love is a practice. Help children see ways they can practice being a person of love and how to share that love with others.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, pick one way you can show love. You do not have to be perfect at loving; you just have to try. Ask your friends and family to choose one way they can show love and share God's love with the world. Hold one another accountable. At the end of the week, share your experiences with one another.

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

Practice Writing Love – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Practice Writing Love" (Reproducible 13A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "Practice Writing Love."

SAY: Love is a very important word to our faith.

ASK: Why do you think love is important to God?

- Encourage the children to complete the activity on the page.

Color and Reflect – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Color and Reflect" (Reproducible 13B) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Color and Reflect."

SAY: God gave us so many ways to show love. Think about all the different kinds of love in your life as you color the page.

- Encourage children to color the page.

Love Word Search – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Love Word Search" (Reproducible 13C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Love Word Search."
- Encourage the children to search for the words on the page.

ASK: What do you imagine our Bible story will teach us based on the words in the word search?

Bible Verse Heart – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Bible Verse Heart" (Reproducible 13D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Bible Verse Heart."
- Encourage the children to color the page.

SAY: Display your heart picture in your room to remind of what our Bible verse teaches us.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, green cloth, battery-operated candle, a heart-shaped item

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a green cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21) to use later in the session. Place the heart-shaped item inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we've been learning about the importance of love.

ASK: What reminds you to show love for others?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "Love in Action" (pp. 298–299) from the storybook or read Romans 12:9–18 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for teaching us to love one another. Amen

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 13 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: What part of the Bible story was your favorite? Why?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 13F–13G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: Who has taught you to love others?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18).

Locate and cut out the Unit 3 story figures (Class Pack—p. 3) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21).

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *love*.

- Show the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster and invite the children to wonder about the image.

SAY: The definition of *love* is a closeness and connection that we feel with God and others.

ASK: How do you feel God's love in your life?

- Have a child place the peace flower on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- What does love mean to you?
 - How do you show love?
 - How do others show love to you?
 - Is it always easy to love everyone like family? Why?
 - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the heart-shaped item.
- SAY:** This heart represents love, which what God asked us to show one another.
- WONDER:** Why do you think God told us to love one another like members of our families?

Experience Wonder

Words of Love – All Ages

Supplies: CEB Bibles, paper, pencils, crayons

SAY: Today's Bible story tells us many ways to love.

WONDER: How do you want to show love?

- Invite the children to reread Romans 12:9-18.
- Then have the children write or draw one way they want to show love.
- Encourage the children to think about one phrase that might define their understanding of love.
- Invite willing volunteers to share.

Grow Love – All Ages

Supplies: seasonal flowers, gardening tools, gardening gloves, water

Prepare Ahead: Ask permission to plant flowers at your church. Locate a place to plant the flowers.

SAY: One way we show love is through service. We are going to plant some flowers. Flowers show the beauty of God's creation and bring joy and love to others.

WONDER: Have you ever planted flowers?

- Take the children outside to plant the flowers.
- Say a blessing over the flowers.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 3 Bible verse is Romans 12:10a. Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Romans in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Romans located in the New Testament? (*sixth book*) In what chapter of Romans is our verse located? (*12*) What is the verse number? (*10*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16). Read the verse together.

SAY: Our Bible verse teaches us an important lesson.

ASK: What other verses can you think of that teach us important lessons? Do you know where they are in our Bibles?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 3 Faith Word (Reproducible Kids' Book, 10F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Love by Matt de la Peña, Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña, quiet toys and soft items, plastic heart cookie cutters in different sizes, soft modeling dough, art supplies for making notes of positive affirmation, paper, pencils, crayons, markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 3 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 10F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw a favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Allow the children to use the cookie cutters to make hearts from the soft modeling dough.
- Encourage older children to make positive affirmation notes using the art supplies. Place the notes around your church.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

Preschool – Listen to Your Heart

Supplies: large cutout hearts, masking tape

Prepare Ahead: Scatter the large hearts on the floor around the room, taping them down, at least one heart for each child.

SAY: Our story today tells us there are many ways to love. I am going to say some ways to love and when I do, I want you to move to another heart and say, "I am love."

- Have each child start by standing on one heart.
- You can use these suggestions and ones of your choosing:
 - Be kind to new people.
 - Give to those in need.
 - Live at peace with others.

WONDER: What are ways you can show people God's love?

Early Elementary – Love Banner

Supplies: large white paper, markers, wall display supplies (appropriate for your classroom)

SAY: Let's make a banner for our door to show our church family how much we love them.

- Put the large paper where the children can work on it, and supply markers.
- Invite the children to decorate the banner. Suggestions include hearts, flowers, and the words "We love you."
- Display the banner at your doorway.

Older Elementary – Love Cookies

Supplies: stove with oven, baking sheets, oven mitts, refrigerated sugar cookie dough, rolling pin, heart-shaped cookie cutter, tube icing (in colors of your choosing), zip sandwich bags, handwashing supplies

Prepare Ahead: Secure an area where you can bake.

- Have the children wash their hands.
- Roll out the cookie dough using a rolling pin.
- Use a cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
- Bake according to the package instructions.
- Decorate as desired. Use the tube icing to write love messages on the cookies. Consider these things: Love, Romans 12:9-18, or Hearts.
- Allow the cookies to cool.
- Place the cookies in zip sandwich bags.
- Share the cookies with parents or the general congregation.

Tips: Check for allergies ahead of time. Only adults should use the stove.

Intergenerational – Live Out the Scripture

Supplies: CEB Bibles, Reproducible Kids' Book, scissors, bowl

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Live Out the Scripture" (Reproducible 13E), for each participant.

- Give each participant a copy of "Live Out the Scripture."

SAY: Let's see if we can think of ways to live out what the Scriptures tell us to do in each scenario.

- Discuss different ways to live out each scenario listed on the page.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Love Through Service

Supplies: Wonder Table

- Gather the children in a circle near the Wonder Table.

SAY: Today's Bible story reminds us of the importance of love.

- Invite the children to make a heart with their hands.
- Have them look through the heart.
- Then have the children repeat after you.

SAY: I see love all around me. Love is in you and love is in me.

- Repeat this practice several times.

SAY: Amen.

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Family Celebration Letter" (p. 128) for each child.

SAY: Let's look at the Take-Home Pages for today (Reproducibles 13F–13G). Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages and the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.

CELEBRATE WONDER® Family Celebration Letter

Celebrating the Teachings of the Early Church

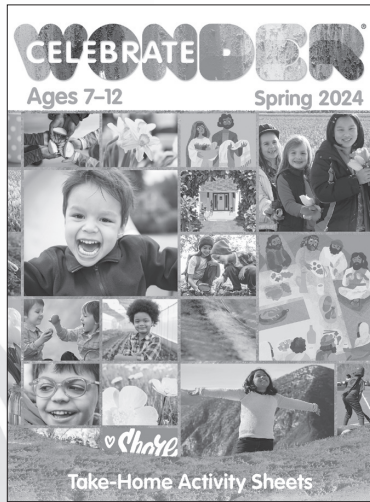
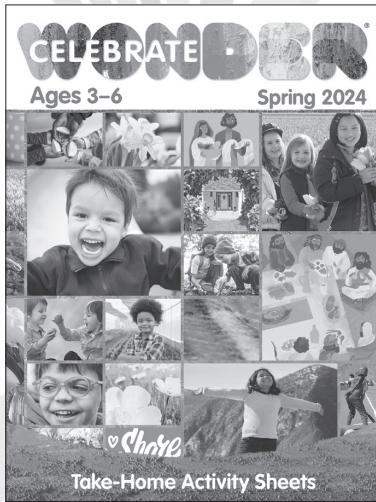
The Bible teaches us that members of the early church cared for one another in a variety of ways. The stories of these believers teach us how we should be as Christians both inside the church and out in the community. By studying these stories, we learn what the teachings of Jesus look like in the actions of his followers.

This quarter, help your child learn how to interact with others through the teachings of these Bible stories. Children will learn to remember Jesus and celebrate the Resurrection through exploring traditional Lenten stories. They will learn to share the good news of Jesus through the example of the early Christians, and they will learn about serving the community by making sure that each person has what they need. Encourage children to show love for others through service as the early Christians did, and to know that the Holy Spirit is with them always to comfort and guide them along the way.

Place this chart on your refrigerator, kitchen table, or in an easy-to-access place. Throughout the week, have your child mark or color a space each time they complete an item on the chart. Celebrate your faith together!

<i>I served others.</i>	<i>I shared a meal with others.</i>	<i>I prayed.</i>	<i>I remembered Jesus.</i>	<i>I celebrated the Resurrection.</i>
<i>I shared about Jesus.</i>	<i>I helped someone in need.</i>	<i>I shared.</i>	<i>I was a good leader.</i>	<i>I went to someone who called for me.</i>
<i>I showed love.</i>	<i>I showed love for my church family.</i>	<i>I felt the Holy Spirit.</i>	<i>I did something nice for someone who was sick.</i>	<i>I supported a leader.</i>

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