

leader bible study

On the heels of His miraculous feeding of the five thousand, Jesus encountered crowds who erroneously concluded He was worth following because He could use His power to fill their empty stomachs. But Jesus recognized their motives and challenged them to go after something greater—not to work for food, which does not last long, but to receive eternal life by believing in Him.

Over and over again, people misunderstood Jesus' words. They asked what they could do to get the food that lasts forever. Eternal life is a gift that God gives—not to those who perform certain deeds, but to anyone who believes in Jesus. Then the crowd asked for another sign. If Moses had provided bread for 40 years, couldn't Jesus do that too? Jesus pointed out the bread didn't come from Moses; it came from God. The crowd was so determined to get bread to eat that they didn't recognize that God had now provided true bread from heaven by sending His Son.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." Jesus didn't want just to fill people's stomachs, He wanted to give them true life. Jesus continued, "If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever" (John 6:51). As you teach, emphasize to kids that God invites us to come and eat. We partake in the bread of life by believing in Him.

The Jewish leaders struggled with Jesus' teaching. How could this man, whom they knew as the son of Joseph, be the Son of God? Furthermore, Jesus talked about giving His flesh and blood. To the Jews, this didn't make any sense. Jesus' teachings were hard to understand. When Jesus talked about His flesh and blood, He was talking about His death and resurrection.

Many people stopped following Jesus because they could not accept His teachings. Yet Peter, one of the Twelve, grasped the truth: "You have the words of eternal life. ... You are the Holy One of God" (John 6:68-69). When we trust in Jesus, He gives us the gift of eternal life.

Vision for Grace Airways
We navigate the scriptures,
training up bold disciples,
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

March Focus: KINGDOM TO COME



March 1st: Kingdom Parables *Matt 13*

Story point: Jesus taught about God's kingdom



March 8th: Three Parables *Luke 15*

Story Point: Jesus came to save people who don't know Him



March 15th: Jesus' Hard Teachings *John 6*

Story Point: Many people did not understand Jesus' teaching



March 22nd: Jesus Raised Lazarus *John 1*

Story Point: Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead



March 29th: The Last Supper *Matt 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; John 13*

Story point: Jesus told His disciples to remember Him



Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co -Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co -pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?
- How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?
- What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?
- In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

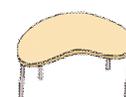
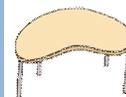
Morning Routine



Stay with this order.

Adjust pictures on schedule according to your plan.

Review schedule with the children at the start of the morning.

	Take Off VBS song Verse/BPQ	5 Min
	Journey Prayer Bible Story God Attributes	10 Min
	Flight Lab Bible Story Activity	15 Min
	Free Play Inside or on playground	10 Min
	Pilot's Log Prayer Take Home Page Settle and Review	5 Min

At congregation last song—clean up/move inside



5 min Take Off

Celebrate & being here! Introduce the morning

Gather

As the children enter, have them gather at the TV to begin with worship/singing.

Have your co-pilot check attendance.

Song

Do a song or 2 of your choice as time allows to help children prepare for the lesson,

Key passage

Transition from singing into the Verse Song. Lead the kids with the hand motions in the video!

He has rescued us....and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

Colossians 1:3

Big picture question

How does God care for His creation?

God loves and rules over all He made.

Repeat the question 2-3 times for learning!

Transition to the Bible Story

Clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy, use a finger play, etc... Set expectations for the children: "my turn to talk, your turn to listen, eyes on me, hands in your lap"

Choosing the same transition every week works super well with child and kindergarten ages.

Bible Connection Ideas

Bible FingerPlay:

1, 2 (hold up fingers) The Bible is true (hands like book), God loves me (cross arms, point to me) and God loves you (cross arms, point to class)

Bible Foundation Motions:

- The Bible is **True** (*thumbs up*)
- The Bible is How God **Speaks to Us** (*cup hands around mouth as if you were shouting*)
- The Bible is **Different** from other stories (*cross your arms and point in opposite directions*)
- The Bible points to **Jesus** (*ASL sign for Jesus*)

Fingerplay Ideas

Open Shut them:

Hold hands in front as you open and shut them while saying:

Open shut them, open shut them, give a little clap

Open shut them, open shut them, lay them in your lap.

Creep them creep them, slowly to your chin

Open wide your little mouth (pause), but do not let them in!

Active Preparing to sit and listen:

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I jump up from the ground.

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I turn myself around.

I stomp my feet , I clap my hands, I sit myself right down

I stomp my feet (*while sitting*) , I clap my hands, I do not make a sound (*finger over lips, spoken in a whisper*).



10 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Introduce the Bible Story

Use our Bible Finger play each week to transition to the Story.

• Sometimes God's Word is hard to understand, but we know it is always true. All of God's words in the Bible are true. **Point to the Bible story picture on their timeline.** The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Tell the Bible Story

Using the pictures, tell the Bible Story or watch the video (*This lesson is NOT in It's All About Jesus Bible Storybook*). Tell the story using your own words keeping eye-contact with the children.

• Some people followed Jesus only because He fed them. Jesus is happy to take care of us, but He has something better for us than food. He wants to have a relationship with us! Jesus did not come just to give people bread to eat; He came to give them true life. **Many people did not understand Jesus' teaching.** Jesus was saying that our spirit needs God just like our body needs food to live. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us life with God forever.

Talk about the Bible Story

Show the Bible story picture as you ask:

1. **What did the people want from Jesus?** (bread)
2. **Who is the bread of life?** (Jesus)
3. **Where did Jesus say He came from?** (heaven)
4. **Why did many of Jesus' followers decide not to follow Him anymore?** (Many people did not understand Jesus' teaching.)
5. **Did Jesus' twelve disciples go away too?** (no)
6. **How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over all He made.**

What movement-based activity can I use?



God's attributes- helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

-With Us -Good

Have a student place the story picture on the 'timeline'

Age Appropriate Bible Story

Use your own words—Trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you

Jesus' Hard Teachings— John 6

A crowd of people were looking for Jesus. They found Him on the other side of the sea.

Jesus said to them, "You are looking for Me because I gave you food not because you saw My miracles. Don't work for food that will go bad. The Son of Man will give you food that never goes bad."

The people asked, "What work does God want us to do?"

Jesus said, "Believe in the One whom He has sent."

The people said, "What will You do for us to make us believe? Will You do another miracle?" The people wanted bread from heaven like Moses and the Israelites got in the wilderness.

Jesus said, "God the Father gives true bread from heaven. I am the bread of life. No one who comes to Me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in Me will ever be thirsty again." Jesus said that the Father had sent Him to do God's plan. God's plan is that everyone who sees Jesus—God the Son—and believes in Him will have eternal life.

The people complained because Jesus said He came from heaven. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

Jesus said again, "I am the bread of life. I came from heaven. Moses and the Israelites ate bread in the wilderness, and they died. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever."

When Jesus said this, many of His followers said, "This teaching is hard. Who can believe it?"

Many of Jesus' followers decided not to follow Him anymore. Jesus asked His twelve disciples, "Do you want to go away too?"

Peter answered, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that You are the Holy One of God."

Christ Connection: Jesus did not come just to give people bread to eat, He came to give them true life. Jesus' teachings were hard to understand. God the Father wants us to believe in His Son. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us life with God forever.

Picture Card Lesson

Use your own words—Trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you!

Jesus' Hard Teachings— John 6

Card 1: A crowd of people gathered around Jesus. They found Him on the other side of the sea. Jesus told them, “You are looking for Me because I gave you food.”

Card 2: The people asked, “What does God want us to do?” Jesus said, “Believe in the One God sent.” The people wanted Jesus to do another miracle. The people wanted bread from heaven like Moses and the Israelites got in the wilderness.

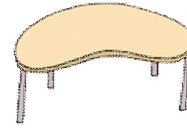
Card 3: Jesus said, “God gives true bread from heaven. I am the Bread of Life. Everyone who comes to Me will never be hungry or thirsty.” Jesus said God sent Him to give eternal life.

Card 4: Some people didn't like what Jesus said. When Jesus said this, many of His followers said, “This teaching is hard. Who can believe it?” and they stopped following Jesus. Jesus asked His twelve disciples, “Do you want to go too?” Peter said, “Lord, You have the words of life. We believe You are God's Holy One.”

Christ Connection: Jesus did not come just to give people bread to eat, He came to give them true life. Jesus' teachings were hard to understand. God the Father wants us to believe in His Son. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us life with God forever.

Bible Storytelling Tips:

Gesture questions: Every time a person in the Bible story poses a question, raise your shoulders and hold out your arms with elbows bent and palms flat up in an exaggerated questioning stance.



15 min **Flight Lab**

Learning the story in an interactive way

Choose from below or use your own idea—however the Lord leads. Then go into free-play.

Write thank-you notes

Provide paper and markers for preschoolers to make thank-you notes. Show children how to fold their paper in half to make a card. Write *THANK YOU* where everyone can see. Encourage a child to copy it on the front of his card. Write *THANK YOU* on the cards ahead of time for younger preschoolers. Encourage children to draw a picture of someone taking care of them inside the card. Ask each child about what she is drawing and for whom, and then write a brief note in her card. Invite children to deliver their notes this week.

- I'm so thankful that God provides people to take care of us! Saying thanks to them is important. They take care of you because they love you, just like God does! *How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over all He made. We feel God's love through His care for our physical needs, but we especially feel His love through Jesus.*

Follow an obstacle course

Set up an obstacle course for children to move through. Use furniture on hand as well as cardboard boxes, pop up tunnels, foam blocks or mats, jump ropes, hula hoops, and so forth to provide plenty of physical challenges. Explain how to complete the course and offer assistance to any children willing to try. Applaud all attempts.

- Following an obstacle course can be hard! Did any of you not even want to try it when I told you how hard it would be? Did you feel any different when I offered my help? In our Bible story today, some people thought Jesus' teaching was too hard to follow, but Jesus helps us do even really hard things when we trust Him!

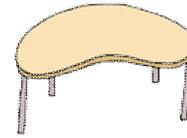
Make cracker art

Post an allergy alert. Provide construction paper for each child. Use liquid glue to make a large *J* on her paper. Watch her closely as she places oyster crackers in the glue, helping as needed. Write the second gospel gem on her art and set it aside to dry. Talk about the Bible story. • Jesus said He is the bread of life. That means anyone who believes in Jesus will have life forever.

Decide whom to follow

Provide a variety of clothes and props for children to put on to dress in different roles. When a child is dressed, announce the role he has dressed for. Explain that you will call out an activity, children will decide who they would follow to do that activity and line up behind him or her. The child with the most followers may perform an action for the rest of the group to mimic. Repeat until all children have played leader. Use the suggestions in the margin or create your own based on available props.

- Good job deciding whom to follow. Huge crowds of people followed Jesus because He fed them. Jesus said to them, “You are looking for Me because I gave you food, not because you saw My miracles. Don’t work for food that will go bad. The Son of Man will give you food that never goes bad.” Many people did not understand Jesus’ teaching. Jesus came to give people true life, not just food. When we trust in Jesus, He gives us life with God forever.



5 Min Pilot's Log

Where we prepare to go home

After flight lab, allow the children to play. **When congregation begins last song, move to the tables.**

Pause and settle

- Signal the end of free play, (use the time-timer to count down)
- Sing the clean-up song and guide children to clean their areas. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer if needed.
- Have children sit around the table.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

- After prayer, hand out the activity/coloring page. Direct children accordingly to complete the page. Remind children of what they can take away from today’s lesson.

If a child finishes the activity/coloring page while waiting for mom and dad or is not interested, only offer options that can be completed at the table (playdough, puzzle, select a book to examine, practice the verse, etc) **Keep children at the table to maintain a calm and quiet environment for easy transition to mom and dad.**

When parents pick up their children, as appropriate share something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the morning.

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents. Have your Co-Pilot encourage parents to use this to talk to their kids about what they learned in class today.

PREK/K Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain — in small groups, ask children for their prayer requests and have the Pilot or Co-Pilot write them on a few strips of paper. Connect strips into a chain and display our growing conversation with the Lord. Feel free to revisit old prayer requests as well.

Pointing to a Globe — Have a child or Co-Pilot spin the globe and place their finger on a country. Place a star sticker on the place(s) and pray over it as a group. We will provide a PreK/K age geography book to help guide discussion and prayer. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus, light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window — Grab a dry-erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry-erase marker, write or draw these things on the window then pray over them.

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

