

1.4 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



Busy Bible Builders

Lot's in Lots of Trouble

BIG IDEA: God wants me to help my family.

BIBLE BASIS: Genesis 14

KEY VERSE: "As for me and my family, we will serve the LORD."
Joshua 24:15 (NirV)

SCHEDULE

PLAY TIME ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:00

LARGE GROUP LESSON

11:00-11:30

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:30-12:00

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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

Thanks to the internet, it's easier than ever to scour the collective wisdom of the world. Do you have a weird rash on your neck? Google it! In-laws driving you crazy? Bing! Looking to improve your marriage? Yahoo! It would seem to follow that with such easy access to such an array of wisdom, there would be fewer problems in the world, but that doesn't seem to be the case. That weird rash keeps coming back, in-laws are still the number one reason for hair loss, and marriages are falling apart at a record speed. Trouble can still be found in abundance. So what gives?

Don't get me wrong — the internet can be an incredible tool for solving troubles. (Case in point: I can now cross-stich my own iPhone case — thanks, internet!) But humans are both limited and flawed and therefore, so is their wisdom. Whether the wisdom is coming from the World Wide Web or from your friend, Gary, it doesn't hold a match to the singular wisdom of God, who not only created the world, but is the source of all knowledge.

In James 1:5-6, it says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must *believe* and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind [emphasis added]." (NIV) Consider that for a moment. The God of the universe is not too busy or disinterested to listen to your troubles. In fact, He stands ready to share His wisdom with you — a wisdom that is older than the world, but eternally relevant. A wisdom that precedes all human understanding, but is ahead of problems you've yet to encounter. And best of all — it's available to you! How do you get it? Ask and believe.

There's nothing wrong with seeking human wisdom. If you want to improve your marriage, there are great resources to help you with that. Counselors can help you with your in-law issues. And by all means, if you have a weird rash, get that checked out. (By a doctor, not Gary!) But first and foremost, pray about it. Ask God for His timeless, unlimited, and unflawed wisdom. *Believe* that He'll give it to you in abundance. You will never find a more willing or capable source of wisdom than God.

David Rausch

Go Tell It Founder and Creator



LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING

How to Prepare Like a Champ for Large Group

Here's a short story for you: A man gets up in front of a room full of kids and with no forethought or preparation he delivers a spellbinding and life-changing message. The kids are so grateful that they carry the man out of the room on their shoulders as confetti cannons explode. Great story, right? Unfortunately, you'll find it under "fiction." Great messages don't just happen without a little work on the part of the communicator. In short, your goal as the Large Group Leader is to communicate God's truth to kids in an engaging way so that life change can happen. To do that effectively, though, you've got to do a little prep work. Here are a few ways you can prepare:

Live the message. Authenticity is one of the most important traits of a good communicator. When we tell kids that they need to be pursuing God, they need to know we're doing that ourselves. That doesn't mean you have to be perfect; it just means that you have to be working towards living out the message in your own life.

Memorize. Sounds scary, right? It doesn't have to be. We'll spend more time in the future talking about how to memorize, but for now let's just say this: Effective communicators memorize. When you're tied to a script, you lose eye contact and your body becomes less animated. And when that happens, your level of engagement goes down. If you've never memorized before, start small. Pick a section of the lesson to memorize and pay attention to the difference it makes with your audience.

Rehearse. In short, don't let service time be the first time you've ever delivered your message. It might seem awkward at first, but run through your message a few times in advance. If possible, do it in the actual space where you'll be teaching.

Pray. When we deliver God's message, we're not alone. Ask for the Holy Spirit to be your co-teacher!

1.4 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



UNIT DESCRIPTION

Let's get busy building! During "Busy Bible Builders," preschool kids will look high and low for the colored building blocks around the room. Each block contains a picture from the Bible story. As the blocks stack up, so does the story. When the stacking stops, the preschoolers will have discovered how God has made them and given them a family to love.

SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

- Find a set of 5 boxes that are a little larger than a piece of 8½ x 11 paper.
- Print the "Large Number Set" on 8½ x 11 paper. Attach one large number to each of the 5 boxes.
- Print the "Bible Story Pictures" on 8½ x 11 paper. Attach one picture to each box on the opposite side as the large number. The pictures also have numbers on them. Be sure the picture and the large number correspond with each other.
- Write the teacher's name on a name tag sticker and place it in the storytelling area. At the appropriate time, the teacher should discreetly stick it to their back so the children can't see it.
- Create a "Super Duper Bible Box" and place your storytelling Bible inside. This box will be used every week. See the Resource Folder for details on how to make the "Super Duper Bible Box."
- If using the non-video options for the Topher segments of the lesson, print the Topher's Story Time Rules signs and Topher's Big Idea signs on 8½ x 11 cardstock paper and place in the story time area. See "Getting Started" in the Resource Folder for the printable signs and for more instructions on how to perform the non-video options.
- Note: Any media repeated throughout the unit, such as the Topher videos and the title slide, is located in the Lesson 1 Resource Folder only.

1.4 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

WELCOME AND MUSIC

As children enter the story time area, give them a high energy welcome — smile, wave, give high fives, and tell them you're glad to see them. For added energy during the transition, play a fun song that the children are familiar with. When the children have all arrived, play one or two upbeat worship songs of your choosing and lead the kids in singing.

Music: Play one or two upbeat worship songs

BIG IDEA AND BIBLE VERSE

Large Group Leader: Hello everybody — it's so wonderful to see you here at church for another week of "Busy Bible Builders." Today, we're going to get busy building our Bible story with big blocks.

Say: Today's true Bible story is going to teach us that **God wants me to share with my family.** That's our Big Idea for the day. Let's say it together. *(Repeat Big Idea with children.)* **God wants me to share with my family.** It's true! **God wants me to share with my family.** In fact, today's memory verse is all about families. Let me teach it to you.

*"As for me (point to self with thumbs)
and my family (trace a circle in front of you with fingers),
we will serve (march in place)
the Lord (point up)."
Joshua 24:15 (extend hands like holding a book).*

Say: Let's do that together. *(Repeat Memory Verse with children 2 or 3 times.)*

STORY TIME RULES

Say: Wow — nice job! I think you are ready for the Bible story. Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

Video: Play "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video

(Note: Play the "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video or use the Story Time Rules script found in the Resource Folder.)

1.4 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



BUSY BIBLE BUILDERS INTRO

Say: I was wondering if you could help me with something. *(Ahead of time, write your name on a name tag sticker and stick it to your back. Try to conceal it until the appropriate time, possibly by wearing a light jacket or sweater.)* I want to make sure everyone remembers my name, but I seem to have misplaced my name tag. Can you help me find it? Do you see it over here? *(Walk to one side of room without turning your back.)* No. Do you see it over here? *(Walk to other side of room without turning your back.)* No. Do you see it back here? *(Turn your back to the children so they can see the name tag. The children will shout, "It's on your back!" Pretend like you don't understand what they mean.)* What? It's in the back of the room? No? It's on your back? No? *(Have fun with the "confusion" for a moment.)* Oh — you mean it's on MY back? *(Try to reach it, but fail.)* Oh no — I can't reach it. Maybe one of you could help me. *(Choose a child to help you retrieve the tag, then stick it to the front of your shirt.)* Wow — you're a great group of helpers!

Say: Did you know that God has given each of us a whole big group of helpers? It's true! That group of helpers is our family. In fact, today's true Bible story is all about a man who helped someone in his family. If you're ready to hear that story, wiggle your fingers in the air. *(Children wiggle fingers.)* Great! First, let's get our Bible out of the Super Duper Bible Box. *(Move to the Super Duper Bible Box.)* I need your help getting the Bible out, though. We need to say our special Bible words together. Repeat these special words after me: It's true, it's true, the Bible is true!

Slide: Show the "Lot's in Lots of Trouble" slide

1.4 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



BIG BIBLE STORY — LOT'S IN LOTS OF TROUBLE

(Note: Ahead of time, place the numbered story blocks all around the room so they are visible from the seating area. Place the blocks so the numbers are visible, but not the pictures.)

Say: Let's get busy building. Let's find the **blue #1** block so we can see what happened first in our Bible story. *(Once found, retrieve the story block and place it in the storytelling area with the picture facing the children.)* What do you see in this picture? What do you think is happening? *(Take answers.)* In the Bible, in the Book of Genesis, there were 4 kings with 4 armies of soldiers. The 4 kings teamed up with each other. They gathered their soldiers together and marched to war. They wanted to defeat all of their neighbors and take all of their neighbors' stuff.

Say: Let's find our next story block. Can you find the **green #2** block? *(Retrieve the block and place it on top of the previous block with the picture showing.)* What do you see in this picture? What do you think is happening? *(Take answers.)* There was a man named Lot who loved God. When the 4 kings and their armies came to Lot's land, they took Lot away as a prisoner. Then they stole all of his food and all of the things he owned. On the count of 3, let's all shout, "Oh no! Lot's in lots of trouble!" *(Count to 3 and shout with children.)*

Say: Let's find our next story block. Can you find the **yellow #3** block? *(Retrieve the block and place it on top of the previous block with the picture showing.)* What do you see in this picture? What do you think is happening? *(Take answers.)* Lot had an uncle named Abram. Abram was part of Lot's family. When Abram heard that Lot had been taken away, he was very sad. Abram knew he had to do something to help Lot. So Abram called together a big group of men who were trained to fight. Together, Abram and his men marched toward the 4 armies to rescue Lot.

Say: Let's find our next story block. Can you find the **red #4** block? *(Retrieve the block and place it on top of the previous block with the picture showing.)* What do you see in this picture? What do you think is happening? *(Take answers.)* Abram and his men chased the 4 armies into the next land. When they finally caught the 4 armies, they fought against them until they defeated the armies and the armies ran away.

Say: Let's find our last story block. Can you find the **purple #5** block? *(Retrieve the block and place it on top of the previous block with the picture showing.)* What do you see in this picture? What do you think is happening? *(Take answers.)* When the 4 armies ran away, Abram found something that made him very happy. He found Lot! Abram brought back Lot and everything the 4 kings and their armies had stolen. Lot was so happy to have a family who helped him!

1.4 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



MUSIC AND CLOSING

(Encourage the children to stand up. Lead them in a worship song of your choice. Following the song, use the rhyme from earlier to help the children sit down again.)

Music: Play one worship song

Say: In today's true Bible story, Abram and Lot were part of the same family. When Lot got into trouble, who helped him? *(Children answer.)* That's right — Abram did. Abram helped his family and we can help our family too.

Say: Let's think of some ways we can help our family. Can you pretend to pick up something heavy? *(Pretend with children.)* You can help your mommy and daddy carry the groceries inside from the car. What else could you do to help your mommy and daddy? *(Take a few answers.)* Now let's pretend to give someone a big hug. *(Pretend with children.)* You can help your brother and sister by giving them a hug when they're hurt or feeling sad. What else could you do to help your brother or sister? *(Take a few answers.)* Now let's pretend to pick up toys. *(Pretend with children.)* You can help your grandma and grandpa by picking up the toys before you leave their house. What else could you do to help your grandma and grandpa? *(Take a few answers.)*

Say: God loves us so much that He gave us a family. Your family helps you and you can help your family too. When Lot was in trouble, Abram helped him. We should do the same because **God wants us to help our families.**

1.4 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



TOPHER'S BIG IDEA

Say: Hey — that's our Big Idea for today! I think we should tell it to our parents when we see them. Maybe we should practice first. (*Appear to be thinking.*) Hmm...who could we practice telling? I know! We could tell our friend, Topher the Gopher. Let's see if we can find him.

(Play "Topher's Big Idea Video 1" or, for a non-video option, print out the "Topher's Big Idea Cards" ahead of time and hold up card #1. See the "Topher's Big Idea" document in the Resource Folder for more suggestions on how to perform the non-video option.)

Video: Play "Topher's Big Idea Video"

(Whisper.) Uh-oh. It looks like Topher is asleep. I think we should wake him up. When he wakes up, we can all tell him that **God wants me to share with my family**. On the count of 3, let's all yell, "Topher the Gopher, wake up, wake up!" (*Count to 3 and yell with kids. Then play "Topher's Big Idea Video 2" or hold up card #2.*)

Topher: Hey, what's the Big Idea?

Children and Large Group Leader: **God wants me to share with my family.** (*Repeat the Big Idea several times. When finished, play "Topher's Big Idea Video 3" or hold up card #3.*)

Topher: Wow! That is a Big Idea! Thanks for telling me! Goodbye kids. (*Encourage kids to wave goodbye to Topher as he disappears back into his hole.*)

Large Group Leader: Let's say a prayer together and thank God for giving us our family. (*Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.*)

Dear God,
Thank you for giving me a family.
They are so, so special!
My family helps me so much.
And I want to help them too.
Amen.