



Uh Oh Topher

The Temple is Built

BIG IDEA: I can praise God with music.

BIBLE BASIS: 2 Chronicles 5

KEY VERSE: “With people, this is impossible. But with God, all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26 Nlrv

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

We live with what psychologists call the “illusion of control.” We think that with enough planning and enough preparation, we can determine the exact outcome of any situation.

It’s the athlete who always wears (and never washes) his lucky pair of socks, convinced that if he fails to do so, his team is doomed to failure. It’s the gambler who thinks he has a particular gift for choosing lottery tickets and is certain that one day his ability will pay off big. As a kid, my brothers and I would do what we called the “Midnight Dance” (really more like the 8:00 p.m. Dance), believing that if we danced our little hearts out, a snow day would inevitably follow. We all have things we think give us control in situations over which we have none.

Only God is exempt from the illusion of control, for it is no illusion. He is, to use a fancy Bible word, *sovereign* over His universe. There is nothing out of His reach. There is no person so far gone that He cannot get to them. There is no situation so hopeless that He cannot act. He not only wants the best for us, but can also do something about it.

The appropriate response to God’s sovereignty is praise. We praise Him not only with music and voice, but also with our lives. We give Him not only glory but also trust. We worship Him not only for what He has done, but also simply for who He is.

Casey Jordan
GO! Contributor



SMALL GROUP SKILL BUILDING

Using Kid-friendly Language

It may be true that we've been washed in the blood of Jesus for the atonement of our sins and the redemption of our souls, but you might want to pause before telling that to a kid. The Christian faith is rich with imagery and vocabulary! To a kid, though, some of it might be confusing, overwhelming, and even frightening at times. If you don't want your kids to look at you like you're speaking Klingon, consider the following advice:

Be mindful of your language. The biggest part of solving a problem is recognizing that it exists. For some of us, we don't even realize that the words we're using with kids are a little advanced.

Develop a kid-thesaurus. No — that's not a dinosaur! Begin developing kid-friendly language to replace some of the bigger words you might use. For example, instead of saying "redeemed," you might say "set free." Instead of saying "washed in the blood," you might say "forgiven of our sins."

Be intentional with new words. Not only is it okay to introduce new words to kids, it's instrumental. Part of developing kids into functioning members of the church is helping them understand the language, but be purposeful with your new words instead of just using them haphazardly.

Don't introduce too many new words too quickly. It can take kids a little bit of time to understand and absorb new words and concepts. If you throw too many new words at them too quickly, they may not remember any of them.

Use the word, define the word, use the word. When you introduce kids to a new word, first use it in its right context. Next, define the word using simple and clear language. Finally, use the word multiple times so kids can really digest it. You may even want to have the kids repeat the word after you so they can really familiarize themselves with it.



☆ PLAY TIME ACTIVITY

JINGLE JAM

Supplies: Jingle bells (2–3 per child), pipe cleaner (1 per child)

Directions: Give each child 2–3 jingle bells and a pipe cleaner. Show the children how to feed the end of the pipe cleaner through the loop on the jingle bell. Bend the pipe cleaner into a circle and twist the ends together to form a handle for the bell. When finished, shake your bell to a rhythm, then ask the children to copy you. Next, encourage the children to take turns leading the group in a rhythm of their own.

Say: Wow! That sounded so pretty! God loves it when we praise Him with musical instruments. In today's true Bible story, the people of Israel praise God with instruments too. We'll hear all about it in just a little bit.

Question: If you could play any musical instrument, what instrument would you want to play?

BIBLE BALANCE (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Tape (1 roll)

Today's Bible verse:

*"With people (point to self with thumbs),
this is impossible (make big "X" with arms).
But with God (point up),
all things are possible (two thumbs up)."
Matthew 19:26 (extend hands like you're holding a book).*

Preparation: Using painters or masking tape, create a tape line on the floor approximately 10 feet long to make a "balance beam."

Directions: Practice the verse together several times. When ready, challenge the children to cross the tape-line balance beam while saying the verse and without stepping off. For each additional round have the children cross the balance beam using a different method from the list below.

Methods of Movement:

- Giant steps
- Tiny steps
- Backwards
- Hop on two feet
- Sideways
- Bear crawl
- Tippy-toes
- Hop on one foot
- Crab walk

Large Group: Room 207 at 11:00 AM



★ SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

After the large group story time is over, help the children transition into the small group activity time. There are multiple activity options designed to help kids remember the Bible story and Big Idea, discover personal application, and to respond to God through art, prayer, and Bible reading. Offer as many activities as your time and space allows.

CLAP ALONG (Application Activity)

Supplies: None

Say: In today's true Bible story, the people of Israel praised God with music and singing. God loves when we praise Him. Let's play a game where we clap for God and shout praises to Him.

Directions: This is a "repeat-after-me" game. **Step 1:** Create a simple beat to clap to. It could be something like this: clap, clap, clap-clap-clap. Encourage the children to repeat it after you. **Step 2:** When finished clapping, shout, "The Lord is good!" Encourage the children to repeat. **Step 3:** Clap the same beat from step one. Encourage the children to repeat. **Step 4:** When finished clapping, shout, "His faithful love continues forever." Encourage the children to repeat. (See below for a quick-guide.) For each additional round, let the children take turns creating the beat. If the children become comfortable enough, consider adding some foot stomps to the beat.

Quick Guide:

Clap a beat (Children repeat)

Shout, "The Lord is good!" (Children repeat)

Clap a beat (Children repeat)

Shout, "His faithful love continues forever." (Children repeat)

Question: How do you think it made God feel when we were singing and clapping to Him?

UH OH TOPHER! (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: "Uh Oh Topher" story review page (1 per group), Topher the Gopher character cards (1 per child)

Say: I'm going to read you today's Bible story again, but there's a little problem. Topher the Gopher got into the story and chewed up some of the words, then he replaced them with the wrong words. Listen carefully to see if you can hear the wrong words. If you hear something that is wrong, hold up your "Topher the Gopher" card, then say, "Uh Oh, Topher. That's not right!" Then you can tell me what really happened in the story.

Directions: Use the "Uh Oh Topher" story review page to read today's story to the children. The page will indicate in bold which words are wrong, followed by the right words. If necessary, help the children remember what really happened in the story.

3.1

Small Group Lesson | Preschool



COLORING SHEET AND SNACK TIME (GO! Deeper Activity)

Supplies: Bible story coloring sheet (printed on back of GO! Home Guide, 1 per child), markers or crayons, snack of your choice, napkins.

Directions: Give each child a Bible story coloring sheet and some crayons or markers. While the children are coloring, give them a snack to eat and ask the following questions to help them go deeper into the story:

Say: Today we learned that we can praise God with music. We can also praise Him with our drawings. God loves the pictures you drew for Him. Let's say a prayer to God and tell Him all of the reasons we love Him.

Prayer: Begin by asking if any of the children would like to pray. Allow any children who want to pray the opportunity to do so. When they're finished, close the prayer by telling God some of the reasons shared by the children as well as the reasons why *you* love Him so much.

Question: If you were at the temple with the people of Israel, what instrument would you want to play for God?

Question: The people of Israel sang, "The Lord is good. His faithful love continues forever." What do you think is so good about God?

PINTEREST CRAFT IDEAS (Optional Craft Activities)

In addition to the above activities, you can find curated craft ideas on our Pinterest board that connect with the lesson. These ideas provide creative inspiration for hands-on projects that reinforce the Bible story and/or Big Idea. Craft supplies are not included on the supply list.

[Unit 3 craft ideas can be found here.](#)