



BIG IDEA

I can praise God with music.

BIBLE

The Temple is Built
2 Chronicles 5

MEMORY VERSE

"Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD." Psalm 95:1 (NirV)

SCHEDULE: WELCOME ACTIVITIES **15-20 minutes**

LARGE GROUP LESSON **20-25 minutes**

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES: **25-35 minutes** (15 minute rotations)

LARGE GROUP

WELCOME | WORSHIP

INSTRUCTIONS: 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. Invite the kids to worship with you. There are instruments and ribbons under the desk for you to use anytime. Please remind them:

- Worship is a way to show God how much you love Him and to thank Him for all He has done.
- Worship makes God happy. God loves it when we sing and pray to Him
- Please stand during worship and use inside walking feet only.

Music: play worship songs and lead the kids in singing

After the songs, help the children sit down by saying the following rhyme with them:



LARGE GROUP

Topher the Gopher 1, 2, 3. (Clap on each number.)

Digs a hole right under me. (Make a motion as if digging with a shovel.)

Slowly I start sinking down. (Twist your body back and forth, lower and lower to the ground.)

Until I'm sitting on the ground. (Sit down on ground or chair.)

BIBLE STORY | **The Temple is Built, 2 Chronicles 5**

INSTRUCTIONS: Pass out the fruit snacks during the Bible Story Rules video, **remind them to hold their trash till the end of the story.**

Say, before the Video:

- Hello everybody, I'm so glad you're here today because I REALLY need your help. Our Bible story pictures are missing and I think I know who took them. I'll give you a hint: he's a furry little rascal with two big front teeth! (*Children respond.*) That's right — it's Topher the Gopher! In just a little bit, we'll search for the missing pictures and tell our Bible story.
- Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

STORY TIME RULES

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

BE KIND

BE SAFE.

HAVE FUN

Video: Play "Topher Time" video (Bible Story)



LARGE GROUP

PRAYER

“Open shut them, open shut them, give your hands a clap. Open shut them, open shut them, place your hands in your lap”

- Let's say a prayer together and praise God for loving us so much.. (Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.)
- Dear God, There is no one like you! You are so, so good. Your love for me never stops. And I praise you for that. Amen.

SMALL GROUP 1

BIBLE BALANCE (Bible Memorization Activity)

Supplies: Tape (1 roll)

Today's Bible verse:

“Come (motion toward self with hands), let us sing for joy (cup hands around mouth) to the LORD (point up).” Psalm 95:1 (extend hands like you're holding a book).

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



SMALL GROUP 1

UH OH TOPHER! (Bible Story Review Activity)

Supplies: Topher the Gopher card, 1 per child

Directions Have children stand in a circle or spread out in a safe space. Read the Bible story review below. The wrong word is in bold, followed by the right words. If necessary, help the children remember what really happened in the story.

Say: Topher the Gopher got into the Bible story again and mixed some things up! You will have to listen carefully!

If you hear something that is **wrong**, hold up your “**Topher the Gopher**” **card**, and say, “**Uh Oh, Topher. That’s not right!**” Then you can tell me what really happened in the story.

Bible Story Review

In the Bible, in the Book of 2nd Chronicles, King Solomon gave orders to build a **roller coaster**. (*Temple.*) A temple is like a beautiful house for God.

King Solomon chose some workers to help build the temple. There were more than 150,000 workers — that’s a LOT of workers.

- The workers carried things. Let’s pretend like we’re carrying something heavy. (*Pretend with children.*)
- The workers hammered things. Let’s pretend like we’re hammering. (*Pretend with children.*)
- The workers sawed things. Let’s pretend like we’re sawing. (*Pretend with children.*) Great job!



SMALL GROUP 1

UH OH TOPHER! CONTINUED

Bible Story Review

When the temple was put together, King Solomon covered the inside with **chocolate pudding**. (*Gold.*)

- The walls were covered in gold, the ceiling was covered in gold, the doors were covered in gold, and there were **donuts** decorating everything. (**Jewels.**)
- It was the most amazing temple, built for the most amazing God!

When the temple was decorated, Solomon had a special box put inside. The box was called the **Bark of the Covenant**. (*Ark of the Covenant.*)

- Can you say “Ark of the Covenant” with me? (*Repeat with children.*)

The Ark of the Covenant is where God’s most special belongings were kept.

When everything was finished, the people of Israel gathered for a BIG celebration. The people played **video games** for God. (*Instruments*)

- They praised Him with trumpets, and cymbals, and harps. Then they sang out to God, “The Lord is good. His faithful love continues forever.”



SMALL GROUP 2

PRAISE SHAKER SING ALONG (Craft Application Activity)

Supplies: Paper plate (1 per child), Rice or beans (½ cup per child), markers, & Stapler (1 per group)

Big Idea: **I can praise God with music.**

Directions: Give each child a paper plate and markers. Have them draw a praise picture to God on the plate.

When they are finished , help add rice or beans to each plate. Fold the plate in half and staple the edges closed to make a shaker. **Make sure the shaker is stapled well so nothing falls out.**

Once each child has a finished shaker, have everyone sit or stand in a circle.

Praise Shaker Sing Along

Say: In today's Bible story, the people praised God with music and singing. God loves when we praise Him. Let's use our shakers to praise God!

Step 1: Shake a simple beat with your shaker.

Example: ***shake, shake, shake-shake-shake.***

Step 2: Have the children copy the beat with their shakers.

Step 3: Say: **"The Lord is good!"**

Have children repeat: **"The Lord is good!"**

Step 4: Shake another simple beat with your shaker.

Have the children copy the beat.



SMALL GROUP 2

PRAISE SHAKER SING ALONG CONTINUED

Praise Shaker Sing Along Continued

Step 5: Say: “His faithful love continues forever!”

Have children repeat: “His faithful love continues forever!”

Repeat several rounds. Let a few children take turns making a simple shaker beat for the group to copy.

At the end of class, play a short worship song and let the children shake their praise shakers while they sing or dance.

Say: When the temple was finished, the people praised God with instruments and singing. We can praise God with music too!

Question: How can we praise God with music?

Leader Help: We can sing. We can clap. We can play instruments. We can shake our praise shakers.

Big Idea Review

Say: I can praise God with music!

Children Repeat: I can praise God with music!



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
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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.