



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 (NIV)

SCHEDULE: PLAY TIME ACTIVITIES 15-20 minutes

WORSHIP, VIDEO & LESSON 10-20 minutes

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES: 10-15 minutes

FREE PLAY UNTIL PARENTS ARRIVE

WELCOME (Enter & Free Play)

WORSHIP

INSTRUCTIONS: During worship, encourage simple motions. Toddlers may clap, dance, sway, sit, watch, or be held by a leader.

Say:

- 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.
- Please stand during worship and use inside walking feet only.

Music: play worship songs and lead the kids in singing

After the songs, encourage the children sit down in a chair and you will give them a snack.

STORY TIME RULES

BE KIND

BE SAFE.

HAVE FUN

Video: Play "Topher the Gopher Story Time" video



BIBLE STORY VIDEO & REVIEW

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

Say, AFTER 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 need to find them. Let's see if we can find the missing pictures and review our Bible story.

I think it's time to find our first missing picture. Does anyone see the picture of a building? It kind of looks like a castle. (Allow children time to look for the picture. Give clues if needed. Once found, remove the picture from its hiding place and hold it up for children to see.) In the Bible, in the Book of 2nd Chronicles, King Solomon gave orders to build a temple. A temple is like a beautiful house for God.

Let's see if we can find the next picture. Does anyone see the picture of some worker men? (Children look for picture. Hold it up once it's found.) 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!

Let's see if we can find the next picture. Does anyone see the picture of some gold coins? (Children look for picture. Hold it up once it's found.) When the temple was put together, King Solomon covered the inside with gold. The walls were covered in gold, the ceiling was covered in gold, the doors were covered in gold, and there were jewels decorating everything. It was the most amazing temple, built for the most amazing God!



Let's see if we can find the next picture. Does anyone see the picture of a gold box with angels on top? (Children look for picture. Hold it up once it's found.) When the temple was decorated, Solomon had a special box put inside. The box was called the 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.

Let's see if we can find the next picture. Does anyone see the picture of a trumpet? (Children look for picture. Hold it up once it's found.) When everything was finished, the people of Israel gathered for a BIG celebration. The people played instruments for God. They praised Him with trumpets, and cymbals, and harps. Then they sang out to God, "The Lord is good. His faithful love continues forever." I have an idea — let's sing to God just like the people of Israel did.

PRAYER

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.



CRAFT | COLORING SHEET

PRAISE SHAKERS (Craft Activity)

Supplies: Paper plate (1 per child), rice or beans ($\frac{1}{2}$ cup per child), markers, stapler (1 per group), music player (1 per group).

Say: God is so, so good. His love for us never ends. And because of that, we can praise God with music. Let's make some musical instruments that we can use to praise God.

Directions: Give each child a paper plate and some markers. Encourage the children to draw a praise picture to God on the bottom side of their plate. Next, pour $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of rice or beans onto the plate, fold the plate in half and staple the outer edges together. Be sure to use enough staples so that rice or beans don't fall through the seam. When finished, play an upbeat praise song that is familiar to the children. Have the children dance and shake their shakers while singing along. When finished, sit down and ask the question below.

Question: Why do you think God deserves our praise? In other words, what's so special about God?

Coloring page available if time permits and children are interested.



EXTRA ACTIVITIES

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?



EXTRA ACTIVITIES

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.



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.