**LESSON ONE: God is Our Provider**

**Memory Verse:**
And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

**Bible Basis:**
Genesis 17:15-22; 22:1-14

**Bible Truth:**
Jehovah Jireh: God is Our Provider.

**You Will Need:**
- “Jehovah Jireh” poster
- Bible time dress-up box
- construction-type toy blocks (If none is available, chenille stems.)
- self-stick notes
- toy ram or picture of a ram
- 1 poster board
- six large sheets of construction paper
- treat jar
- Use the Clues! bag
- On the Fast Track! #1 take-home paper
- StationMaster Card #1
- (Optional) treasure box
- (Optional) Snack: raisins, pretzel sticks
- (Optional) Activity: building blocks or similar materials

**GET SET!**
*(Lesson Preparation)*

- Print today’s Bible memory verse on a poster board: And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).
- Hang the poster board on the wall at the front of the classroom.
- Hang the “Jehovah Jireh” poster on the wall.
- Print, “Jehovah Jireh: God is Our Provider” on an index card and tape it to the toy ram.
- Create labels for yourself from self-stick notes, one for each “name” that applies to you (your first name, mom, teacher, etc.).
- Write each of the following phrases on six large sheets of construction paper: “Abraham was old!” “God gave him a son.” “God knows best.” Abraham obeyed God.” “Isaac lived.” “The Lord will provide.”
- Make a copy of On the Fast Track! #1 take-home paper for each child.
- Make a copy of StationMaster Card #1 for each helper.
- Set out the treat jar, Use the Clues! bag, (optional) treasure box.
- Set up snack or outside play activities if you include these items in your children’s ministry.

**TICKETS PLEASE!**
*(Welcome and Bible Connection)*

- **Objective:** To excite children’s interest and connect their own life experiences with the Bible Truth, children will construct things God has provided for them and talk about His provisions.
Getting to Know God • Lesson 1

When everyone has arrived, call children to the lesson area and welcome them by name. Introduce new children to the group. Offer each child a treat from the treat jar. Say: Don’t you think it’s cool that God has provided another day for us to learn more about Him? This candy I’ve provided for you is a tiny reminder of all God has provided for you. Children may finish their treat now or set it aside to take home later.

Sharing Time and Bible Connection

Attach the sticky labels on your body where the children can see them. Ask different children who are good readers to come up and read one note each. Those are some of my names. Each one describes something different about me, even though I’m just one person. Ask two volunteers to come up; let others suggest names that you write and stick on the two volunteers. After you’ve attached several to each child, thank them and let them sit down.

Introduce today’s lesson by discussing these questions. As you talk, give every child the opportunity to say something.

- Who can tell me what your name means?
- Does anyone know why your parents chose the name they gave you?
- Did you know that God has lots of names? What names of God can you think of? (Provider, Prince of Peace, Father, Healer, Good Shepherd)

After discussion time, help your students connect their discussion to the Bible story they are about to hear from Genesis 17 and 22:

Parents often give their children names that tell something about them or what they hope their children will become. God has lots of names. Every one of them gives us another clue about who He is and what He can do. Point to the Jehovah Jireh poster on the wall. One of His names is Jehovah Jireh. Say that with me. Say it slowly and clearly. Jehovah Jireh: God is our provider. Right from the beginning of the earth God provided what His people needed. Today we’re going to find out how God did that for a man and his son.
I'm going to need six of you to help me tell the story. Give each volunteer one of the sheets of paper. When you hear the words from your paper during the story, come up and hold your poster for everyone to see. You'll need to listen carefully.

Dress up like Abraham with a robe, towel wrapped around your head, cloth sash, and beard.

Hi! I'm Abraham, and I'm over 100 years old! When I was 100, God did an amazing thing. The first thing I want you to remember about my story is that I was very old. Say, “Abraham was old!” Wait for the child holding this sheet to come forward, then have children repeat, “Abraham was old!” (Have child remain in front.)

This might be hard to believe, but I didn’t have any children when I was a young man. But when I was 100 years old God gave my wife, Sarah, our son! We were so excited! We named him Isaac. It means “laughter” because my wife laughed when God told her she would have a son. God promised that the whole world would be blessed through Isaac’s children.

Now here’s another thing for you to remember about me. Say “God gave him a son.” Wait for the child holding this sheet to come forward, then have children repeat, “God gave him a son.” Now say them both together. Children should read from the two posters: “Abraham was old! God gave him a son.” (Have all three children remain in front.)

Do you know what a sacrifice is? Let children respond. In my time, we would build an altar with stones, put the wood on top, and then lay a recently killed animal on the wood. We’d set the wood on fire. The wood and the meat would burn up. We did this to honor God.

I loved Isaac so much. How could I sacrifice him? I didn’t know, but I trusted God. I knew I needed to obey Him. So you need to remember this: “Abraham obeyed God.” Wait for the child holding this sheet to come forward, then have children repeat the statement. Then say all four: “Abraham
was old! God gave him a son. God knows what is best. Abraham obeyed God.

God had promised me the whole world would be blessed through Isaac's children. Somehow God would keep His promise, even if I didn't understand how. I just believed Him.

I was very, very sad as I built the altar for the sacrifice. I slowly put the wood on it. Then I put my only son, Isaac, on the wood. I was still trusting God. Just as I was ready to sacrifice Isaac, an angel of the Lord called to me. “Abraham, Abraham.” “Here I am,” I said. “Don't harm the boy. Now I know you love Me,” he said. Whew, was I glad to hear that!

So now you can remember that Isaac lived! Let's say that together. Wait for the child holding this sheet to come forward, then have children repeat it. Then read all the posters so far.

But how would I make the sacrifice now? As I wondered that, I looked up and saw a ram, a male sheep, caught by his horns in some bushes. There was my sacrifice! God had sent it! I called this place on the mountain, “The Lord will provide.” That's your last thing to remember. Wait for the final volunteer to come up then repeat, “The Lord will provide.”

So now you know how God provided for me. Let's say the story together. Read posters in order then have all six volunteers return to their seats.

Isn't God incredible? If He says He will provide, He will!

Use the Clues!
(Bible Review)

Okay, let's see what you remember.

■ What was amazing about Abraham's son? (Isaac was born when Abraham and Sarah were old)
■ What hard thing did God ask Abraham to do? (sacrifice his only son)
■ What did Abraham do when God asked him to do that? (obeyed God, built an altar, prepared Isaac as the sacrifice)
■ How did God provide for Abraham? (God put a ram in the bushes for the sacrifice)
■ How has God provided for you when you've had a need? Let children respond.

God's name, Jehovah Jireh, means God will provide. God gives us exactly what we need, at the exactly right time. We don't always see it or understand it, like Abraham. But once God provided the ram for the sacrifice, Abraham saw how perfectly God provided for him. God is the same today, and He provides for you and me. Take the ram out of the Use the Clues! bag. How does this animal remind us of today's story? (The ram is what God provided for Abraham's sacrifice.) This card says Jehovah Jireh: God is Our Provider. I'm going to toss the ram to someone. When you catch it, you say, “Jehovah Jireh: God is Our Provider.” Then you should toss it to someone else who will catch it and say the same thing.

Once everyone has said the words, put the ram in the Use the Clues! bag. The ram will remind us how God provided for Abraham. He provides for us too. Every week after our story we'll put an object in the bag to remind us what we learned that week.
BIBLE MEMORY WAYPOINT! (Scripture Memory)

**Objective:** Children will hide God’s Word in their hearts for guidance, protection, and encouragement.

Read this week’s memory verse from the poster. Point to each word as you read it:

*And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4:19).

To help children memorize the verse, play “Follow the Leader.” Say the verse one phrase at a time, and have the children repeat after you. Do this a few times until the verse is familiar. Then take down the poster and let volunteers take turns “leading” the other children in a different way to say the verse. They might instruct the group to say it with both hands on their head, while standing on one foot, or by whispering it. Emphasize that the leaders need to make good choices as they lead.

PRAYER STATION

**Objective:** Children will explore and practice prayer for themselves in small groups.

**Materials:** Copies of StationMaster Card #1 for each adult or teen helper

Break into small groups of three to five children. Assign a teen or adult helper to each small group and give each helper a copy of StationMaster Card #1 (see Resources, 93) with ideas for group discussion and prayer.

SNACK STOP: ABRAHAM’S ALTAR (Optional)

If you plan to provide a snack, this is an ideal time to serve it.

**Materials:** raisins, pretzel sticks

Children can construct small altars with raisins as the stones, then lay broken pretzel sticks on top as wood. They can retell the story or talk about how Abraham and Isaac felt before and after God provided the ram.

Note: Always be aware of children with food allergies and have another option on hand if necessary.
APPLICATION

Objective: Children will have opportunities to show how the lesson works in their own lives through activities and take-home papers.

Some children’s ministries may allow children to play outside at this point. If yours does not, choose one of the following activities.

Build-an-Altar

Divide children into teams and give them building materials. Each team will build the best altar they can with their blocks or other materials. Review parts of the lesson by asking questions about the story after the teams are finished.

The Wave

Have the children review the story using the six short sentence statements they repeated during the Bible story. (You may choose to hang up the posters or have the children recite them from memory.) Everyone sits in a circle. Choose one child to go first. He or she stands, says the first statement, then sits down. The next child quickly stands, says the next statement, and sits. See how quickly the children can stand, speak, and sit, creating a wave as the activity moves around the circle.

ON THE FAST TRACK! (Take-Home Papers)

(Optional) Introduce the treasure box by asking: Who would like to choose a prize from the treasure box? Anticipate excited responses. What? No one? Anticipate loud responses! Show the On the Fast Track! take-home papers. Today I’m going to give each of you an On the Fast Track! paper to take home. You’ll find activities and a Bible verse about Jehovah Jireh, our God who provides. To earn a prize, complete all the activities at home and learn your verse. Then ask your parents or another adult to sign the ticket and bring it back next week. If you do, you’ll get to choose a prize from the treasure box!

Distribute the take-home papers just before children leave.
**LESSON TWO: God is Our Provider**

**Memory Verse:**
Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights (James 1:17).

**Bible Basis:**
Leviticus 11:44; Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 6:24-34; Romans 3:23; 5:8

**Bible Truth:**
Jehovah Jireh: God is Our Provider

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**GET SET!**
*(Lesson Preparation)*

- Print today’s Bible memory verse on a poster board:
  *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights (James 1:17).*
  Hang the poster board on the wall at the front of the classroom.
- Hang a clothesline across the front of the classroom or tape it to the front wall. Put the drop cloth on the floor under it.
- Cut up the white material. Cut 2 pieces 12”x12” and 11 pieces 6”x6” (one will be used as the reminder for the week).
- Make a copy of *On the Fast Track #2* take-home paper for each child.
- Make a copy of *StationMaster Card #2* for each helper.
- Set out the treat jar, Use the Clues! bag, (optional) treasure box.
- Set up snack or outside play activities if you include these items in your children’s ministry.

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**TICKETS PLEASE!**
*(Welcome and Bible Connection)*

- **Objective:** To excite children’s interest and connect their
own life experiences with the Bible Truth, children will create decorated name cards and talk about their names.

Welcome Time Activity: Decorated Name Cards

- **Materials:** card stock, markers, crayons or colored pencils, glitter glue

As children arrive, allow them to create a decorated name card. They should write their name in large letters or script, then decorate the letters and background. Mount the cards on the wall when finished. As they work, kids can talk about how they were given their names or what their names mean.

When everyone has arrived, call children to the lesson area and welcome them. Offer them a treat from the treat jar. **Do you know who provided this day for you to come learn about God?** (God) **Who provided the candy?** (God) **Take a treat as a reminder that God provides everything we have.** Children may finish their treat now or set it aside to take home later. If children returned a signed Fast Track! ticket, they may choose a prize from the treasure box also.

**Sharing Time and Bible Connection**

Introduce today’s lesson by discussing the following questions. As you talk, give every child the opportunity to say something.

- **What names do you have?** (first, last, and middle names; children may also mention their roles such as daughter or son, friend, soccer player, etc.)
- **Do you or someone you know have a nickname? What are some of those nicknames?**
- **Do you know any of God’s names the Bible tells us about?** (If your children already completed Lesson 1, ask them which of God’s names they learned about last week.)
- **One of God’s names is Jehovah Jireh. It means God is Our Provider. What does God provide for you?**

After discussion time, help your students connect their discussion to the Bible story they are about to hear from various Old and New Testament passages:

You’re right that God provides things like what we need to eat, our homes and clothes and toys, our families and those kinds of things. There’s something else that’s even better than the things we can see. We’re about to find out what it is that God provides.
Objective: Children will study various passages to discover that one of the greatest things God provides is forgiveness and cleansing for our sins.

Materials: 2 large and 11 smaller white fabric squares, spray bottles of colored water and bleach water, drop cloth, gloves, clothesline and clothespins, Use the Clues! bag

Explain that you’ll call on children to help with the objects in the story. If you give them a spray bottle, they should spray just a few times on the white cloth square you point to.

Of all the things God has provided for you and me, there’s one thing that is the most important of all. You’ll see by the end of the story what that is. We’re going to make a picture of this with these white pieces of fabric.

Every time you hang a new square with clothespins or add “stain” to a square, choose a different child to help you. You can point to the place you want the square added or sprayed while you’re talking.

Give the first large square to a child to pin up. Say: God is different from us in so many ways. He has always been alive—He won’t ever die. And He is holy. That means that God has never done anything wrong—and He can’t do anything wrong...ever! We don’t really understand how anyone can never do anything wrong, but this is what God says about Himself.

If you are holy, it means that you have no stain of sin in you. You’re pure, perfect, and clean, like this white piece of material. Point to it. It’s perfectly clean. This is like God.

When God created people, He made them holy too, just like He is. Invite another child to pin up a small square. God let the first people, Adam and Eve, choose to be holy or to sin. To be holy means to be like God, and to sin means to do things your way instead of God’s way. Well, Adam and Eve decided to do things their way. They chose to sin. Invite a different child to spray a little colored water on the cloth.

That changed everything! People weren’t holy any more. Now they were sinful. Invite different children to hang the other small white squares. Set aside one small white square for Use the Clues! People like Noah, Moses, King David, Peter, Paul and everyone else who has ever lived has sinned. Have various children spray some of the small white squares with a little colored water. Only God is holy. Even you and me have sinned. We aren’t holy like God.

How many of you have chosen to do things your own way? Wait for show of hands. When you don’t obey your mom or dad, you sin. Any time you don’t tell the truth, or you treat someone wrong or say hurtful things, you’re doing things your way instead of God’s way. As you talk, let different children spray the rest of the small squares with colored water. When you look at these pieces of cloth, you can see that only God is y. Point to the one big, white square on the clothesline. No one else is. So ow can we be holy, the way God said to be holy? We’re all sinful.

Have a child pin up the second large white square. God is not only holy,
He really loves us. So He had a plan to help us become holy so we can be His friends again. The Bible says Jesus came to show us the way to God. Jesus never sinned, because He’s God’s perfect Son. Jesus is God’s plan for taking care of our sin.

What did Jesus do that made the stain of our sins go away? Jesus died and came back to life. He died to pay for our sins in our place. Jesus died so we could be holy. One by one, as you talk, invite different children to spray the bleach water on the colored squares. God will take away our sins if we ask Him to. When we ask Jesus to be the Leader of our life, He will clean up the sin for us. Spray all stains except for the last square.

What if we choose not to accept Jesus as our payment for our sin? Point to the last stained square. We won’t ever be holy, and we can’t be friends with God.

Jesus is the most important thing God has provided for us. Having Him as the Leader of your life much better than all the other things you have . . . because nothing and no one else can clean away your sin.

Use the Clues!
(Bible Review)

- What’s a big difference between God and us? (He’s holy, we’re sinful.)
- Why are people not holy like God? (we choose to do things our own way, we sin)
- Why did God provide Jesus? (to give us a way to become clean from our sin, Jesus died in our place for our sins.)
- What does each of us need to do to be clean from our sin? (ask Jesus to be the Leader of our lives, ask His forgiveness)

Let’s see what you remember from last week. Bring out Use the Clues! bag with the ram and tag from the previous lesson. Have a volunteer pull the ram from the bag and try to remember the story and God’s name. Have the child place the object back in the bag after reviewing the story it represents.

Jesus is the most valuable thing God has provided for you and me. Hold up one unused white cloth square. I’m going to put this white cloth in our Use the Clues! bag. Next week, when you see it, you should remember that God provided Jesus to clean us from our sins. Put the cloth in the bag.

BIBLE MEMORY WAYPOINT!
(Scripture Memory)

- Objective: Children will hide God’s Word in their hearts for guidance, protection, and encouragement.

James 1:17
Read this week’s memory verse from the poster. Point to each word as you read it:

**Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights** (James 1:17).

To help children memorize the Bible verse, play “Group and Regroup.” Say the verse for the class, phrase by phrase, and have them repeat it after you. Do this a few times until the verse become familiar. Start with the Bible verse poster hanging at the front of the room, and cover it up when you feel the children can recite the verse without it.

Then explain that you’re going to name some groups and whoever fits in that group will stand and say the verse together. Call out groups like these: kids wearing green, all boys, kids who are seven years old, kids who have brothers, kids who like watermelon, kids who ate cereal for breakfast, or kids with brown hair.

Change the groups to fit your class, and try to choose groups that will bring at least two children to their feet. Add more until all the kids have had a chance to say the verse a few times.

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**PRAYER STATION**

- **Objective:** Children will explore and practice prayer for themselves in small groups
- **Materials:** Copies of StationMaster Card #2 for each helper

Break into small groups of three to five children. Assign a teen or adult helper to each small group and give each helper a copy of StationMaster Card #2 (see Resources, 94) with ideas for group discussion and prayer.

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**SNACK STOP: ABRAHAM’S ALTAR (Optional)**

If you plan to provide a snack, this is an ideal time to serve it.

- **Materials:** white snacks, such as white popcorn, white sugar cookies with white frosting, white cheese cubes, etc.

Ask children what they notice about the snack and ask how it is connected to the Bible story. They should eventually figure out that the snack is white, like the white cloth that stood for God’s holiness. Talk with children as they eat about how to stay away from sin and resist temptation.

*Note: Always be aware of children with food allergies and have another option on hand if necessary.*
APPLICATION

Objective: Children will have opportunities to show how the lesson works in their own lives through activities and take-home papers.

Some children’s ministries may allow children to play outside at this point. If yours does not, choose one of the following activities.

Clean It! Relay

Play a game that echoes how Jesus cleans us of our sin. Have children energetically cover a large white board (or a couple of small ones) with marker scribbles and coloring. Cover as much white as possible. Then line children up behind a starting line 10 feet or so away from the white board. Set two or three erasers at the board, then say “go” or blow a whistle. The same number of children as there are erasers run up to the board and start cleaning it. Give them several seconds, then say “stop” or blow the whistle again. The children run back and each tags another child; these now run up and resume cleaning. Continue until the board is clean. Make sure all the children have at least one chance to participate. Conclude by comparing how the children cleaned the board to how Jesus’ dying and resurrecting gives them the choice to be clean of their sins.

Quilt Squares

Show children how to create a mosaic design on a sheet of paper, using 1” to 2” bits of colored paper (squares, rectangles, triangles), plus one 4” white square. Once they’ve decided on a design, they can glue down their mosaic papers. Explain that the white square stands for God, the only holy one who provided Jesus for us so we could one day live with Him.

ON THE FAST TRACK! (Take-Home Papers)

(Optional) Treasure box: Who can remind us how to earn a prize from the treasure box? Yes! By taking this On the Fast Track! paper home, doing the activities, and memorizing the Bible verse. When you bring back the Fast Track! ticket signed next week, you’ll get to choose a prize from the treasure box! Show students the ticket.

Distribute the take-home papers just before children leave.
LESSON THREE: God is Our Battle Fighter

Memory Verse:
What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

You Will Need:
- Bible time dress-up box
- “Jehovah Nissi” poster
- 1 miniature cardboard sword (about 6”-12” long)
- small building blocks
- small balls or beanbags
- 1 poster board
- 1 cardboard sword for each child (about 24” long) with “Jehovah Nissi” written on half of the swords
- treat jar
- Use the Clues! bag
- On the Fast Track #3 take-home paper
- StationMaster Card #3
- (Optional) treasure box
- (Optional) Snack: miniature and regular marshmallows, pretzel sticks
- (Optional) Activity: poster boards (1 per every two children), masking tape

GET SET! (Lesson Preparation)

- Print today’s Bible memory verse on a poster board: What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31) Hang the poster board on the wall at the front of the classroom.
- Hang the “Jehovah Nissi” poster on the wall beside the “Jehovah Jireh” poster.
- Print “Jehovah Nissi: God is Our Battle Fighter” on the miniature cardboard sword.
- Make a cardboard sword for each child and write “Jehovah Nissi” on half the swords.
- Make a copy of On the Fast Track #3 take-home paper for each child.
- Make a copy of StationMaster Card #3 for each helper.
- Set out the treat jar, Use the Clues! bag, (optional) treasure box.
- Set up snack or outside play activities if you include these items in your children’s ministry.

TICKETS PLEASE! (Welcome and Bible Connection)

- Objective: To excite children’s interest and connect their own life experiences with the Bible Truth, children will wage battles on towers they build.
As children arrive, have helpers welcome each child by name, then ask how God provided for them this past week. If students are new, invite them to join the group at the lesson area. Offer children a treat from the treat jar. Say: God likes it when children come to learn more about Him. Whenever they do, He rewards them with His presence. The treats remind us of that reward. Children may finish their treat now or set it aside to take home later. If children returned a signed Fast Track! ticket, they may choose a prize from the treasure box also.

Sharing Time and Bible Connection
Hold up the “Jehovah Nissi” poster. Remember that God has lots of names that tell us things about Him. Point to the “Jehovah Nissi” poster. This is another of God’s names: Jehovah Nissi. It means God is Our Battle Fighter. Jehovah Nissi means God fights our battles.

Introduce today’s lesson by discussing the following questions. As you talk, give every child the opportunity to say something.

- Did you ever play sword fight or some kind of game where you’re a knight or a soldier? What do you like about playing this kind of game?
- What kinds of real life battles do people have? (against sickness, with unfair situations, with people they don’t get along with, against sin)
- What kind of battles do kids your age have? (against bullies, with sisters and brothers, against hard things, against doing wrong)
- Who helps you fight these battles? (parents, friends, family, God)

After discussion time, help your students connect their discussion to the Bible story from Exodus 17:
Life has lots of battles for us. Sometimes they’re small ones, like with a friend or a brother or sister. Sometimes they’re bigger battles against sin, or sickness, or people who aren’t doing things God’s way. People have been fighting battles since God created the world. But there’s a big secret lots of people don’t know. God will fight our battles for us and with us! Back in the Old Testament, God showed the Israelites just how He would do that. Let’s find out what happened.
Objective: Children will study Exodus 17 and hear how God fought for the Israelites in a battle against their enemies.

Materials: Bible time dress-up box, Use the Clues! bag, miniature cardboard sword, a cardboard sword for each child

Choose children to play the parts of Moses, Aaron, and Hur. Use clothes from the Bible time dress-up box to costume the actors. Give Moses a stick as his staff. Divide the rest of the class into two groups: the Israelites and the Amalekites. Give swords printed with “Jehovah Nissi” to the Israelites and swords without words to the Amalekites. Explain that as you read the Bible story, the children will act it out, with these two rules:
1. No child can talk or make sound effects.
2. They must act out the scene in slow motion.

While the Israelites were traveling in the desert, Moses was their leader. Some enemies from the tribe of Amalek came up to fight Israel at a place called Rephidim.

Moses called his commander, Joshua. “Get some fighting men together and face the Amalekites tomorrow. I will go to the top of the hill and hold the staff of God.”

Joshua chose good fighters, and the next day they put on their weapons and marched out to fight the Amalekite warriors. Have children engage in battle. Moses watched from the top of the hill with two of his captains, Aaron and Hur. Have Moses, Aaron, and Hur stand on one side of the room where everyone can see them. Place a chair behind Moses, with Aaron and Hur standing on either side of him.

Whenever Moses held up his hands with the staff of God, the Israelites won. Have Moses hold up his hands and staff; the children who are Israelites should push back the Amalekites. Whenever he put his hands down, the soldiers of Amalek won. Let Moses put his hands down. The children who are the Amalekites should push back the Israelites.

Moses tried to keep his hands up all the time, but he got so tired. His arms felt so heavy—he just couldn’t keep them up. Have Moses put his hands up and then down, up and down. Have those fighting win or lose accordingly. So Moses sat down on a big stone. Have Moses sit on a chair. Aaron and Hur stood alongside Moses and held his arms up for him. They stood there like that until the sun went down. Have Aaron and Hur hold up Moses’ hands and the children engage in battle with Israelites winning.

What do you think happened in the battle? Let children stop and give their ideas. Moses kept his hands up with the staff of God, and the Israelites won the battle against their enemies, the Amalekites. The Bible says they crushed the Amalekites. Have the Israelites win and the Amalekite fighters lie down, “dead.” Ask everyone to sit down where they are to hear the end of the story.

It was an amazing victory! The Israelites won because God had
fought for them. Moses knew they would always want to remember how God had won the battle, so he stacked up some big stones into an altar. That was how the people of Israel remembered important things God had done. Moses named the altar “The Lord is my battle fighter.”

Use the Clues!
(Bible Review)

- How did God use Moses to win the battle? (Moses held up his arms and the staff of God)
- What happened when Moses let his arms down? (the Amalekites started to win)
- How did the battle end? (the Israelites won because God fought for them)
- How can Jehovah Nissi fight our battles for us? (we can depend on Him to take care of us and defend us; if we’re doing what He asks, He will take care of our problems for us)
- What kinds of battles could God fight for you? (against bullies, against the desire to do wrong)

What do you remember about our other lessons on God’s names? Bring out the Use the Clues! bag with objects from previous lessons. Have volunteers pull an object from the bag and try to remember the story and name of God. On page 83 you’ll find the objects, story, and name of God they represent.

Just like God fought for the Israelites, He will help us with our battles. Show children the miniature sword. This little sword will be perfect to help us remember how God fought for the Israelites and that he will fight for us too. God’s name is Jehovah Nissi: Battle Fighter. We’ll pass it around and when it comes to you, stand and hold up the sword and say like a strong warrior, “God is my Battle Fighter.” After every child has had the sword, put it in the bag.

BIBLE MEMORY WAYPOINT!
(Scripture Memory)

- Objective: Children will hide God’s Word in their hearts for guidance, protection, and encouragement.

Read this week’s memory verse from the poster. Point to each word as you read it:

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

To help children memorize the Bible verse, divide them into small groups of three to five (have a helper work with each group). Say: Each group gets to make up motions to go along with the words or phrases in the verse. When everyone is done, each group will get to take turns saying the verse and showing the rest of the children your motions. Encourage originality, but some groups may end up with similar motions—that’s okay.
PRAYER STATION

- **Objective:** Children will explore and practice prayer for themselves in small groups
- **Materials:** Copies of StationMaster Card #3 for each helper

Break into small groups of three to five children. Assign a teen or adult helper to each small group and give each helper a copy of StationMaster Card #3 (see Resources, 94) with ideas for group discussion and prayer.

SNACK STOP: ARMS OF MOSES (Optional)

If you plan to provide a snack, this is an ideal time to serve it.

- **Materials:** miniature and regular marshmallows, pretzel sticks

Children can create a figure of Moses holding up his arms. Using two mini-marshmallows for feet, push a pretzel stick into each, then the other ends of the two pretzels into the bottom of one regular marshmallow. Add two pretzel arms angled up. Sit a mini-marshmallow on top of the larger one as a head.

Note: Always be aware of children with food allergies and have another option on hand if necessary.

APPLICATION

- **Objective:** Children will have opportunities to show how the lesson works in their own lives through activities and take-home papers.

Some children’s ministries may allow children to play outside at this point. If yours does not, choose one of the following activities.
ON THE FAST TRACK! *(Take-Home Papers)*

*(Optional)* Treasure box: Who can remind us how to earn a prize from the treasure box? Yes! By taking this *On the Fast Track!* paper home, doing the activities, and memorizing the Bible verse. When you bring back the *Fast Track!* ticket signed next week, you’ll get to choose a prize from the treasure box! Show students the ticket.

Distribute the take-home papers just before children leave.

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**Battle Shields**

Because *God fights our battles for us*, we’re going to make shields with his name, *Jehovah Nissi*. Children can color and decorate half a sheet of poster board to resemble a shield. Have them copy “Jehovah Nissi: Battle Fighter” from your poster. Make a handle for each shield by cutting a strip of poster board and taping it on the back. Give time for students to present their shield to the rest of the class.

**Battle Advance**

Play a game similar to Red Light, Green Light. Choose one child (or yourself) to be Moses and raise and lower his arms. “Moses” will stand at one end of the room. Everyone else is at the opposite end. When Moses’ arms are up, players can move toward Moses, but when his arms are down, everyone has to freeze. Anyone caught moving at the wrong time has to go back to the starting point. The first one to reach Moses gets to take his place.
LESSON FOUR: God is Our Battle Fighter

Memory Verse:
Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand” (Ephesians 6:13).

Note: Early elementary verse in bold type.

You Will Need:
- “Jehovah Nissi” poster
- assorted colors of construction paper
- sheet of large, white construction paper for each child
- 2 poster-sized pieces of paper
- 18 styrofoam cups
- 3 paper or plastic plates
- 3 cardboard rolls from paper towel
- 3 kids’ bike helmets
- 9 small damp sponges
- 6 bottles of glue; tape
- balloons (1 per child)
- 3 pictures of families from different parts of the world
- 3 Bibles
- copies of belt, helmet, breastplate, feet, shield, and sword for each child (see Resources, 85-87)
- 1 poster board
- treat jar
- Use the Clues! bag
- On the Fast Track #4 take-home paper
- StationMaster Card #4
- (Optional) treasure box
- (Optional) Snack: large gingerbread or people-shaped sugar cookies, squeezable frosting or jelly, American cheese slices, rolled fruit snacks, plastic knives.
- (Optional) Activity: blanket, clothesline, towels, paper wads, Ephesians 6:13 poster from activity centers

Bible Basis:
Ephesians 6:10-17

Bible Truth:
Jehovah Nissi: God is Our Battle Fighter

GET SET!
(Lesson Preparation)

Note: There are six activity centers in this lesson. Be sure to allow some extra time this week for preparation. You’ll need six helpers to manage each of the six centers. If you do not have that many StationMasters, you will need to invite additional volunteers to help with this lesson.

- Print today’s Bible memory verse on a poster board: Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand” (Ephesians 6:13).
- Hang the poster board on the wall at the “Sword of the Spirit Center.”
- Print, “Jehovah Nissi: God is Our Battle Fighter” lengthwise on a strip of paper, photocopy, and cut out one for each student.
- Make multiple copies of the six armor shapes: belt, breastplate, feet, shield, helmet, and sword (see Resources, 85-87). Cut and paste to fill a page entirely with

When you see this icon, it means preparation will take more than five minutes.
one shape, e.g. belts. Then photocopy pages on different color construction paper. All belts should be one color, all helmets another color, etc. Make enough copies so that every child will have a copy of each shape. Cut shapes apart and place at corresponding centers. Your StationMasters can help you do this!

- Photocopy “Truth or Lie” sheets (Resources, 84) and cut apart. Roll up a corresponding truth and lie pair. Insert a pair in a balloon and blow up. Provide one balloon per child. Place at the “Belt of Truth Center.”
- Make paper plate “shields.” Print a phrase on each one: “You shall not lie,” “Honor your father and mother,” and “Love your neighbor as yourself.”
- Make paper towel roll “arrows.” Print a phrase on each one: “It’s okay to tell tiny lies,” “I don’t have to obey Mom or Dad if they’re not here,” and “If my friend won’t play with me, I don’t have to like him anymore.”
- Create the other five activity centers. See each center’s specific materials under “All Aboard for Bible Truth.”
- Mount two poster boards on the wall at the “Belt of Truth” center. Print “TRUTH” on one and “LIE” on the other.
- Make a banner, such as the children will make in centers, for the Use the Clues! bag.
- Make a copy of On the Fast Track #4 take-home paper for each child.
- Make a copy of StationMaster Card #4 for each helper.
- Set out the treat jar, Use the Clues! bag, (optional) treasure box.
- Set up snack or outside play activities if you include these items in your children’s ministry.

TICKETS PLEASE!
(Welcome and Bible Connection)

- Objective: To excite children’s interest and connect their own life experiences with the Bible Truth, children will draw warriors in battle gear to begin thinking about fighting battles.

Welcome Time Activity: Warriors in Battle Mural

- Materials: butcher paper and markers or crayons

  Mount a 10-foot length of butcher paper on a blank wall. Set boxes of markers or crayons on the floor beside it. As children arrive, direct them to the mural and ask them to draw a warrior in battle gear. Give children ideas such as protection for the head, a shield, a sword, etc. See how well protected they can draw their warrior.

When everyone has arrived, call children to the lesson area and welcome them. Offer them a treat from the treat jar. God likes it when children come and talk to Him.
Whenever they do, He rewards them with His presence. The treats remind us of that reward. Children may finish their treat now or set it aside to take home later. (Optional) If children returned a signed Fast Track! ticket, they may choose a prize from the treasure box also.

Sharing Time and Bible Connection

Call out your names and the names of your family to me. Wait 30 seconds as children call out names. Wow, I heard so many different names! God has lots of names, too, and every name tells us more about Him. Today’s name is Jehovah Nissi. Point to the “Jehovah Nissi” poster on the wall. Does anyone know what that name means? Wait for children to answer. Yes, Jehovah Nissi means God is Our Battle Fighter.

Introduce today’s lesson by discussing the following questions. As you talk, give every child the opportunity to say something.

- What kinds of armor and protective gear does a soldier or warrior wear? (helmet, breastplate, shin protectors, chain mail, etc.)
- When you’re fighting a battle against Satan, what kind of armor do you need? (spiritual armor, the armor of God)
- Where might you get armor to fight Satan? (God gives it to us as we memorize verses, read the Bible, and learn how to live God’s way.)

After discussion time, help your students connect their discussion to the Bible lesson from Ephesians 6.

God is ready to fight our battles for us. He also has a special set of armor for us, so we can fight off Satan. The devil wants to keep us from living God’s way, but God’s armor helps us defeat him. That’s why one of God’s names is Jehovah Nissi, God is Our Battle Fighter.

ALL ABOARD FOR BIBLE TRUTH!

(Bible Discover and Learn Time)

**Objective:** Children will study Ephesians 6:10-17 to understand the spiritual armor God has for them in their battles against Satan.

**Materials:** construction paper, “Jehovah Nissi” strips, glue. See each center description for additional materials.

The Bible tells us in Ephesians 6:10-17 that Satan is always at war with us. But God gives us armor to help us defeat Satan. Read Ephesians 6:13 aloud and say, God fights the battle. We just put on the armor and obey what He tells us. Today, you will visit six centers to find out about pieces of God’s armor, and you’ll create a banner as you learn them. At each center you will do an activity to earn a badge to glue on your banner. So let’s go!
Give children each a sheet of large, white construction paper for a banner. Have them glue the strip with “Jehovah Nissi: God is Our Battle Fighter” at the top. A helper should be stationed at each center. Divide children into six groups and assign each group to a center. Decide how children will rotate to the next center and announce that to them now. Allow 5 minutes to complete each activity and glue on the new badge. When you call “Time!” they should move on to the next center.

**Belt of Truth Center**

Each child pops a balloon and removes the two slips of paper. The child (or helper) reads each slip, then tapes the lie on the LIE poster and the truth on the TRUTH poster. When finished, they’ll glue a belt badge to their banner. While they do this, remind children: *The belt of truth helps us know God’s truth.*

**Breastplate of Righteousness Center**

Have 18 styrofoam cups at this station. Three children at a time can build a pyramid using six cups. As they stack, they should tell the helper one loving thing God has done for them for each cup. As children glue on their breastplate badges, helper reminds them: *God loves them and the breastplate of God’s righteousness covers their hearts.*

**Gospel of Peace Feet Center**

Have three Bibles and three pictures of families from different countries here. As children look at the pictures, the helper should say: Telling people about Jesus means you might have to travel. Children carry a Bible and “speedwalk” to the end of the hall or room three times. As children glue the foot badge to their banner, helper tells them: *The gospel of peace reminds us to tell people near and far who Jesus is and about His salvation.*

**Shield of Faith Center**

Place paper plate “shields” and cardboard “arrows” at this center. The child picks an arrow, and reads the message. Helper asks, *Which shield would you use to block this “flaming arrow of doubt”?* Children choose a shield and blocks as helper tosses arrow at them. When we believe in Jesus as our Savior and trust God to do battle for us against Satan, Satan’s arrows of doubt can’t touch us. As children glue their badges, helper reminds them: *The shield of faith keeps Satan’s flaming arrows of doubt from touching us.*

**Helmet of Salvation Center**

Helmets and sponges are at this center. Three children should put on helmets. *God loves us. He wants us to wear a helmet of salvation to protect us from Satan’s tricky lies. I’m going to toss some lies at you* (show the sponges). When you hear the lie yell, “No! That is not true!” As you toss a sponge, say: *Lie #1: God doesn’t love you!* After children yell no, repeat for lies 2 and 3. *Lie #2: God doesn’t have time for you!* Lie #3: *God likes other kids better!* Satan’s lies fall on the ground, just like the sponges did, when our minds are protected by God’s helmet of salvation. Let children glue on the badges, and remind them: *The helmet of salvation keeps Satan’s lies from making us believe wrong things about God.*
Sword of the Spirit Center
Mount Ephesians 6:13 poster here. Let children read Ephesians 6:13. Repeat it several times for memory. Remind the children that Scripture in their minds gives them God’s Sword to fight against Satan’s temptations. When the verse is memorized, children may glue the sword badge to their banner. As they glue, remind them: The sword of the Spirit is the Bible. Note: This center will replace Bible Memory Waypoint for this week.

PRAYER STATION

- **Objective:** Children will explore and practice prayer for themselves in small groups
- **Materials:** Copies of StationMaster Card #4 for each helper

Break into small groups of three to five children. Assign a teen or adult helper to each small group and give each helper a copy of StationMaster Card #4 (see Resources, 95) with ideas for group discussion and prayer.

Use the Clues! (Bible Review)

When all children are finished, gather them back to the lesson area for discussion.

- What does the belt of truth do? (helps us know God’s truth)
- How does the breastplate of righteousness help us fight Satan? (covers our hearts and protects them from Satan’s attacks)
- Why are our feet given the gospel of peace? (to tell people near and far who Jesus is and about His salvation)
- What is the shield of faith for? (to keep Satan’s flaming arrows of doubt from touching us)
- Why do we need the helmet of salvation? (to keep Satan’s lies from making us believe wrong things about God)
- What is the sword of the Spirit? (Bible)

What warrior would leave his armor at home? God fights every battle for us against Satan when we use His armor. We should use all of it every day! Hold up the banner you made. The banners we made today will remind us of God’s name. Okay, warriors, show me your banners and repeat after me: Jehovah Nissi: God is our Battle Fighter. Hoorah! Place your banner in the Use the Clues! bag. (If you are short on time, you may omit Use the Clues! for today.) Okay, let’s see what you remember from other lessons. Show the Use the Clues! bag with objects from previous lessons. Have volunteers pull an object from the bag and try to remember the story and name of God. On page 83 you’ll find the objects, stories, and names of God they represent.
SNACK STOP: BATTLE-READY WARRIOR (Optional)

If you plan to provide a snack, this is an ideal time to serve it.

Materials: large gingerbread or people-shaped sugar cookies, squeezable frosting or jelly, American cheese slices, rolled fruit snacks, plastic knives.

Children will create the armor of God on a cookie person. Cut armor shapes from the cheese and fruit. Assist younger children as needed. Some children may only add one or two pieces of armor, which is acceptable.

Note: Always be aware of children with food allergies and have another option on hand if necessary.

APPLICATION

Objective: Children will have opportunities to show how the lesson works in their own lives through activities and take-home papers.

Some children’s ministries may allow children to play outside at this point. If yours does not, choose one of the following activities.

Catching Fiery Arrows

Divide into two groups, with one group on each side of a “net,” e.g. a blanket hung over a clothesline. One group has “arrows” (paper wads); the other has “catchers” (towels). Give a towel to every 2–4 children. Instruct them to hold it by the corners. Group 1 launches arrows over the net and group 2 catches them before they hit the ground. Discuss what kinds of arrows Satan launches at us and how we protect ourselves. Then groups should switch roles.

Ephesians 6:13 Practice

Cut a strip of paper wide enough to block out several words on the Ephesians 6:13 poster. Cover words in the verse with the strip, and have students recite the verse from memory, filling in the hidden words. Try it again covering different words.

ON THE FAST TRACK! (Take-Home Papers)

(Optional) Treasure box: Remember if you do your Fast Track! activities and bring back a signed ticket, you’ll get to choose a prize from the treasure box! Distribute the take-home papers just before children leave.