

Building Blocks of Faith Lessons

The following lessons are based on the Building Blocks of Faith and are designed for 5 to 10 year old children.

I Belong

Focus: The kids will understand that they belong to God and are one of his children.

Introduction: Same and Different, a game

Ask the kids to stand in a line shoulder to shoulder, facing you, with room to move forward. When you say something that is true for them, they are to move forward. The first statement is “move forward if you are wearing jeans.” Continue with the following list:

- Wearing sandals.
- Wearing socks.
- Play the tuba.
- Have a pet.
- Wearing fingernail polish.
- Pierced ears.
- Have a brother.
- Have a sister.
- Like to eat pizza.
- Like to eat broccoli.
- Drink coffee.
- Your tongue can touch your nose.
- You can make a tube shape with your tongue.
- Ride the bus.

Ask the children about what other ways people are different and the ways they are the same. Ask the kids who have moved the farthest and least far in the Same and Different game to write the list of ideas that the group generates on a whiteboard or poster board.

Say: Look at all the ways we are different. Look at all the ways we are the same. One of the ways we are the same is we all are part of this group. We are all here now. We all belong here.

Bible Lesson: Ruth Belongs to the Family of God

Tell the story of Ruth from the book of Ruth.

(Consider using the retelling in [Kid Connection](#) Year 1 Quarter 2 Unit 6 Lesson 1 and 2.)

Ask: What did you learn about God?
What did you learn about his people?

Say: The story of Ruth shows how God brought someone from Moab into His community, blessed her, and how, through her, many others were blessed, starting with Boaz and Naomi and continuing on to all those blessed by King David and, eventually, by Jesus. Ruth's statement in Ruth 1:15

"Your people will be my people, your God my God" is a great summary of how we too belong to a community of believers and we belong to God.

John Swanson's art can be used to tell or review the story.

http://www.eyekons.com/john_swanson_serigraphs/john_swanson_serigraphs_for_sale

This art is also available in the book: [*The Story of Ruth*](#)

Response: Circle Art

Make a circle art project based on Kandinsky circle art. The circles can be made on a 6" square canvas or paper, using paint or crayons. Place the circles together to make a group wall art project. By joining the circles together the piece becomes better. It is a reminder that like each circle belongs in the project, we too belong to a community of believers and to God.

Check out this instruction video using black paper and oil pastels:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5aqtNEYbhl>



I know

Focus:

The children will understand why it is important to know the stories of God and of his people.

- Even the people in the Bible forgot to tell the stories of God and his people.
- The children will make a bookmark for their Bible that will remind them to focus on God and his people when they read the Bible.

Introduction: Telling the Story

Watch the video or read the first chapter, “The Story and the Song,” from the [Jesus Bible Story Book](#) to the kids. Emphasizing the line “Some people think the Bible is a book of heroes...”

Ask: What struck them in this reading (or video)?
Why do some people think of the Bible as book of heroes?
Why shouldn't we think of them as heroes?

Bible Lesson: From Generation to Generation

Read Judges 2:6-12.

Say: In the Book of Judges we read that after Joshua died the people did not know the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. They had forgotten to tell their children how God had delivered them from Egypt, how they passed through the Jordan River or how the wall of Jericho had fallen down. The people worshipped the gods of the other people in the land.

Ask: What can we learn? (That is it important to learn about God and what has done and what he is doing now.)
How can we do that? (By reading the Bible)

Say: When you read the Bible ask yourself “What can I learn about God?” and “What can I learn about his people?”

Response: Bookmarks

Make bookmarks for their Bible that includes these two questions.

What did you learn about God?

What did you learn about his people?

Interesting bookmarks are here:

- <http://www.planetjune.com/blog/papercraft/triangular-origami-bookmark/>
- <http://howaboutorange.blogspot.com/2007/07/bookmarks-with-vintage-fabric.html>

- <http://howaboutorange.blogspot.com/2009/01/fabric-bookmarks.html>

Follow up:

The leaders could give a Bible storybook to each child to take home.

I have hope

Focus: The children will understand how eternal hope is given by God.

- The kids will hear how Joseph's life was filled with ups and downs and yet God was with him, giving him hope.
- The kids will look at the book Psalms and write down words of hope that can be combined into a paper chain to make a wall of hope.

Introduction:

Read the book [My Side of the Car](#) by Kate Feiffer. Talk about how Sadie maintains a vision of a sunny day, despite the darkness and flooding that is happening on her dad's side of the car. Sadie has hope that she and her dad will finally make it to the zoo. Are there times when you have hope even though things look bleak. We do have hope... an eternal hope that will break through all the darkness!

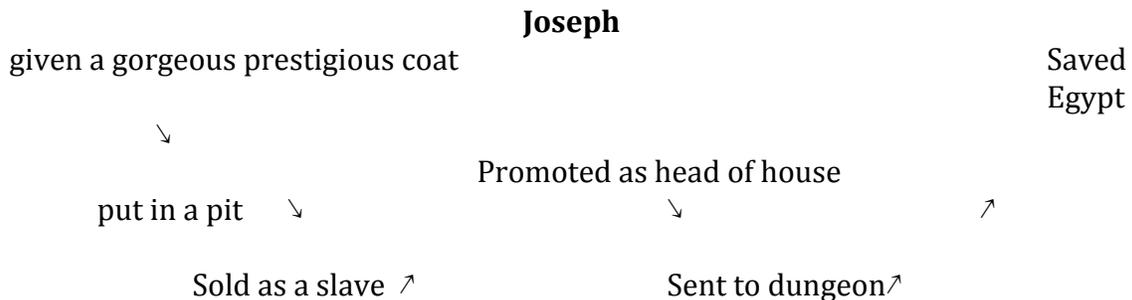
Bible Lesson: Joseph

Tell the story of Joseph. ([Kid Connection](#) Year 1 Unit 3 lessons 3 and 4 retells the story well.)

Ask: What did you learn about God in this story?
What did you learn about his people?

Say: Joseph's life had some incredible highs and lows.

With the children make a chart of the high's and lows in Joseph's life. Your chart could look like this:



Say: Joseph was blessed by God. God was with him in the low times and in the good times. God was his hope. Just like Joseph, we have highs and lows in our lives. And just like Joseph we know that God is with us. God is our hope. This hope is written in the songs of Israel in the book of Psalms.

Pass out a sheet with these verses printed on it.

Psalm 13:5-6
Psalm 74:12

Psalm 85:11-13
Psalm 28: 6-7

Have the kids highlight a word or phrase that shows that the writer had hope.
Share these words or phrases with the group.

Response: Paper chains of hope (See the picture below.)

Before class: To make a paper chains use 12" x 12" paper found in scrapbooking or craft stores. Consider purchasing a package of coordinating colorful paper. Cut the paper into 3" x 12" strips. These colors will represent the colors of Joseph coat.

The kids write words of hope from Psalms on the back side of the colored paper. Staple the paper together to make the links of the chain. Hang a piece of the chain vertically so the first link touches the ceiling and the bottom of that chain touches the floor. Take the next piece of the chain and hang it next to the first one. Continues until you have used up all of the paper chain links and the wall is filled with color and words of hope.



I am Called and Equipped

Focus: The kids will identify ways that they are equipped to answer God's call in their lives as well as ways they are prepared to respond now to God's call.

- Moses was prepared to lead people of Israel out of Egypt.
- Discover how we are called and prepared to answer God's call.

Introduction: I Can Do It!

Toss a ball from person to person. When a child catches the ball, they must say one thing that they can do and then throw the ball to the next child. Things to mention can be as basic as standing, catching a ball, running after a ball, crossing their arms, etc. The leader can yell "Pause" at any time during the game and ask the child to demonstrate this skill that they do. Continue until every child has had a couple of turns.

Say: We all have many abilities to do many things. All of these abilities are given to us by God. We are equipped to do things. Today let's look at how David was prepared and equipped by God and called to do a task that might be impossible without God's help.

Bible Lesson: David and Goliath and Esther

David and Goliath Story:

Say: We know a lot about David. David was the king of Israel who is described as man after God's own heart. But he didn't begin as a king. He started out as the youngest of seven boys who worked for his father taking care of sheep. Now this is not the most glamorous position. It involves watching sheep day and night and keeping them safe.

David learned the skills of the shepherd. He said, "when a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. [I have] killed both the lion and the bear." (1 Samuel 17:35-36.) Listen to how God used David and these skills in this story.

Tell the story of David and Goliath. (1 Samuel 17:44-53)

Ask: What does this story say about God?
What did you learn about his people?

Say: David was prepared for this day. He had been equipped, using a sling shot many times in the fields protecting the sheep.

Another person in the Bible was also called and equipped by God for an

important role. Her role did not involve a sling shot. Let's listen to how Esther was equipped.

Say: Esther, a Jew, was chosen to be the Queen of the Medes and Persians. She was in a unique position to save her people.

Tell the story of how Esther saved the people of Israel.

Say: Esther was not called to use a slingshot like David, but she was equipped by being placed in a palace and in the role of queen to tell the King how her people were going to be killed and to ask the King not to kill the Jews.

We too are called by God and equipped to work for him. Our work may not involve using a slingshot or talking to King but we can serve him in other ways.

Make a list of ways to serve God. Your list could include some of these ideas:

- Go through your closets and bring clothes to a mission.
- Challenge people to work on tasks like forgiving, speaking kindly all the time or loving one other person who is hard to love.
- Bring a day's or a week's worth of food to a local food bank.
- Volunteer to shovel a neighbor's sidewalk or driveway.
- Visit a person who can't come to church.
- Help in the nursery.
- Clean the church kitchen.
- Sew bibs for a local child care or pregnancy center.

Response:

There are many ways to respond to this lesson. Below are two suggestions:

1. Do one of the things from your list.

2. Hand art

MATERIALS: Paper and colors or markers.

Each child traces around their hand and arm on the paper. Design and color the picture of the hand and arm. Cut the hand and arm out. Arrange the hands on a poster or canvas reaching to the words "Yes, Lord." There are many interesting layouts in Google images (search for "hand art group") or on Pinterest.

