

Group

Leader Guide



Children's Church

It's church...just for kids!



FALL

Leader Guide

FALL • CHILDREN'S CHURCH



Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's



Relational

Learner-to-learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

What learners experience through discussion and action sticks with them up to 9 times longer than what they simply hear or read.

Applicable

The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Learner-based

Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.



KidsOwn Worship®: FaithWeaver® Children's Church, Leader Guide, Fall

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We know you care about kids...

We do, too!

That's why we attempt to ensure that all crafts, toys, and gizmos meet or exceed national safety standards—and are produced by manufacturers that don't use child labor or abuse their labor force. You can order Group resources knowing that in addition to caring for *your* kids, you're also caring for children elsewhere.

Let's keep kids safe!

We strive to provide products that are mechanically reliable and hold together during normal, intended usage. Items are also checked for flammability, and both paint and surface coatings are checked for heavy metals—including lead.

You can help your children stay safe by seeing that toys and gizmos are used as designed, for the purposes designed, and that any broken pieces are disposed of promptly and properly. We value your feedback. If you become aware of a problem affecting the safety of any of our products, please inform us immediately.

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Don't just teach about the Bible. Change lives!

KidsOwn Worship® is a resource God will use to change the lives of the children in your church.

KidsOwn Worship sessions encourage people to focus on the one most important thing in life: *a growing relationship with Jesus*. In Luke 10:41-42 (the Martha and Mary story), Jesus said, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed." Every session in

KidsOwn Worship helps students focus on this one thing, a growing relationship with Jesus. Whether they're studying Bible stories from the Old Testament or the New Testament, learners will be challenged to grow closer to Jesus every week.

You'll be thrilled at the way KidsOwn Worship encourages learners to weave faith into life. By providing meaningful activities, great discussions, and personal challenges, KidsOwn Worship takes learners past head knowledge of the Bible and into heart- and life-change.

With KidsOwn Worship, students of all ages will

- experience God's story in fresh, fun, meaningful ways;
- understand God's Word by doing surprising, fun stuff;
- discover the adventure of applying God's truth to everyday life;
- build a forever friendship with Jesus—the best friend they could ever have!

Welcome to KidsOwn Worship: Church for your kids.

Children's church is where your preschoolers and elementary children build their worship foundation. It's where they focus on God in a personal way—and experience children's worship through uplifting songs and fun, memorable Bible learning.

We know you don't want to just teach about the Bible in your children's church; you want to change lives through worship that touches minds and hearts in amazing ways! Thanks to KidsOwn Worship, your preschool and elementary children will experience worship through memorable songs and impactful Bible learning. It's flexible, easy-to-plan and—most importantly—effective in helping your kids grow a personal relationship with Jesus.

While KidsOwn Worship can be used in conjunction with any Sunday school curriculum, it works particularly well with FaithWeaver NOW and FaithWeaver Friends. Together, your families will learn about the same important Bible passages—allowing them to grow in faith as families.

We're so glad you've decided to touch the heart of God and change the hearts of your kids with KidsOwn Worship. We know you'll help kids grow closer to God!

Thom Schultz
Joani Schultz

Thom and Joani Schultz
Chairman and Chief Creative Officer
Group Publishing, Inc.

**Weave faith
into life!**



KidsOwn Worship also works hand in hand with FaithWeaver NOW and FaithWeaver Friends. All three of these great programs follow the same Scope & Sequence to help reinforce the Bible message throughout the week. FaithWeaver NOW is available for infants–adults.

Staffing Your Children's Church

To help make your children's church experience strong, it is important that you have at least one adult helper no matter how many children attend your children's church. In addition, we recommend that you recruit at least one helper for every 15 children.

Song Leader

You may want to recruit a song leader who can lead your children in a powerful worship experience. Give the DVD to the song leader, and let him or her know which songs will be sung each week and what discussion he or she is responsible for.

Preschool Leader

You may decide to keep all the children together during the entire worship time or to separate the preschoolers and elementary students during "Let's Learn the Point!" If you decide to separate preschoolers for this section, recruit a preschool leader, and make sure there's a room where the preschoolers can meet.

Staffing for Your Children's Church Size

If your children's church is made up of 30 or fewer children, you'll be able to run an effective children's church program with two leaders—one to present material or lead worship songs, the other to gather supplies and help children with their individual needs.

If you have more than 30 children in your children's group, we suggest that you use a small-group format, which we call Praise Crews, for discussions. Using Praise Crews will change both the number of volunteers and the kind of volunteers you'll need (see the margin box). Each Praise Crew will need a responsible teenager or an adult helper to build relationships and help with individual needs.

Involving Older Children

If you have older elementary children or preteens who want to be involved in children's church, consider forming a children's worship team. It's a great way to help children learn to serve, and you'll find that many children are eager to participate on a worship team. Hold regular rehearsals to help the worship-team children learn the song lyrics and motions. Be sure to rotate children into the worship team often so that many children get a chance to learn how to serve.

Important Legal Information

By purchasing KidsOwn Worship you also buy the right to use the material, songs, and lyrics as often as you like. Please remember that this content is copyrighted material and can only be used within your children's ministry program. This right does not grant permission to post material on the Internet or to sell, reproduce, or redistribute this material in any manner. To request permission for this, please visit group.com/permissions.

What Do Praise Crew Leaders Do?

- Arrive early and be ready to welcome the kids in your Praise Crews.
- Worship enthusiastically! If you put your heart into worshipping God, kids will, too!
- Listen carefully to directions and help each child participate in the worship activities and the discussion that follows.
- Gently redirect kids who get off track or start misbehaving. It's your job to help kids have an awesome experience at KidsOwn Worship.

The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17–14:31



Worship Theme:



God is mighty.

Weaving Faith Into Life:



Children will worship God for the mighty things he does in their lives.

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
1 Let's Praise God! (up to 25 minutes)	Sing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) • "Watching Over You" • "There's Power in the Blood" • "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" • "Power Shuffle" 	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Video equipment, electrical outlet, lamp, battery-operated toy, batteries

Preschool

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
2 Let's Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)	Pillars of Cloud and Fire Make Bible story props to begin thinking about how mighty God is.	Classroom Supplies: Blue and black construction paper, 3 cotton balls, and yellow and orange crepe paper streamers for each child; glue sticks; scissors
	God's Mighty Rescue Plan Participate in telling the Bible story.	Classroom Supplies: Art from previous activity, source of running water, paper towels
	* Hold the Flow Try to push back and hold water to compare God's power to their own.	Classroom Supplies: 1 straw per child, 9-inch aluminum pie plate, water, towel

Elementary

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
2 Let's Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)	* God's Game Plan Make banners showing things from the Bible passages that reveal God's might.	Classroom Supplies: Bible, sheet of poster board, scissors, glue, and craft supplies for every 4 children
	* God Is on Our Side Add verses to a song to show how God used his might in others' lives.	Classroom Supplies: Paper, pencils
	Thumb Wrestle Challenge Receive help to win a thumb wrestling match.	

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
3 Let's Pray! (up to 10 minutes)	The Offering Imagine what God can do with the offerings they give.	Classroom Supplies: Offering bowls
	Circle Prayer Take turns saying specific mighty tasks God has done.	
	"No Greater Gift" Sing this song as a prayer.	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Video equipment

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.

Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2.

Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.

The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17–14:31

As the mass of over two million Hebrews left Egypt, God knew that facing the warlike Philistines immediately would likely have made the Hebrews lose faith and turn back to Egypt. Even after their roundabout journey, we know that their faith faltered at the edge of the Promised Land when the spies came back with reports of the size and strength of the land's inhabitants (Numbers 13:26–14:4).

The pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night must have been awesome. At first the pillars may have frightened the people. But eventually they became symbols of God's presence that must have been extremely reassuring to the newly freed slaves traveling in unknown territory!

God instructed the Israelites to turn back somewhat toward Egypt. God wanted to make Pharaoh think that the Israelites were wandering aimlessly, which would lure Pharaoh into coming after them. Pharaoh would have been confident that he could easily defeat the Israelites.

Remember that the Israelites were slaves of the Egyptians only days prior to this event. They had been beaten by the whips of the slave drivers and were familiar with the weapons the Egyptians carried. They must have realized that their fighting talents were nothing compared to the Egyptians' and that they would be no match for the Egyptians' horse-drawn chariots. And they were backed against the sea, with mountains on two sides and the Egyptians bearing down on them. The situation must have seemed hopeless.

We need to realize that God had all this planned. He knew that the people would be frightened. He knew that they would doubt him. But he also knew that his power would be remembered forever. God knew that he would prevail, that the Hebrews would be saved from Pharaoh, and that the result would be a people growing greatly in their faith in him.

Various attempts have been made to explain how the Israelites could have crossed the Red Sea the way the Bible describes it. Some have said they really crossed the Reed Sea—a much shallower body of water. Others have suggested that God sent a wind that moved the water so far to one side of the sea that a sandbar was exposed. We don't know exactly what happened, but we do know that there was enough water to drown the Egyptian army and that God somehow moved the water away so that the Israelites could cross. However it was accomplished, it was a miracle of God responding to the needs of his people.

Devotion for Leaders

We live in troubled times, when it's easy for people to lose heart and feel hopeless and lost. But a relationship with Jesus can give us peace and joy. Jesus is our light in times of darkness.

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: When have you felt out of sorts and desperate to find some control over your situation? Perhaps the Israelites felt these things after they escaped from Egypt. Although they may not have recognized it at the time, eventually they were able to look back and see how God used that time to protect them and bring glory to himself.

What part of your life might God have his hand in now? What can you do to connect with God during times of fear and desperation? Take a few minutes each day this week to surround yourself with quiet. No kids. No television or music in the background. Reflect on God's hand in your life.

Why We Worship for Leaders

Today's culture encourages children to value might. The "Man of Steel" is a hero because he's more powerful than anyone on earth. "The Force" gives the good guys the edge in galactic battles. The popularity of professional fighting is at an all-time high.

None of these popular images is truly powerful or even real. They exist in imagination or on stage. God's might, however, is a force the Christian can get excited about. God uses his might to further his kingdom, reveal his glory, and fight for his people. God's children can know, without a doubt, that God is mighty enough to do anything he pleases. They also can know that God loves them, hears their prayers, and uses his might for their ultimate good. For this, he is worthy of worship and praise.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Let's Praise God!—Make sure your video equipment is ready. Take the batteries out of a battery-operated toy, and hide them in your meeting area where you can easily retrieve them. Set the toy and a lamp at the front of your meeting area.

Preschool Activities—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

Skits & Puppets

In the KidsOwn Worship Kit, you'll find a collection of skits titled "KidsOwn Worship Skits." The skits are designed to be used with Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ puppet during the preschool activities. You can purchase a Theo puppet at group.com.

1 Let's Praise God!

Play the music videos on the *KidsOwn Worship DVD* as children arrive. Greet each child by name. Then make a muscle and say to each one, "Show me how mighty you are!"


Check each muscle and make a positive comment, such as, "Wow! What a muscle! You must be mighty!"

When you're ready to begin, welcome the children warmly.

Say You may wonder why I checked everyone's muscles as you came in today. In Joshua 1:9, God says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

That's amazing! Our mighty God has commanded us to not be afraid or discouraged, not because of our enormous strength, but because he is with us. In other words, God doesn't want us to be afraid if we are doing what he wants us to do.

God is mighty! That means he's strong enough to handle anything. God is mighty—he can make anything happen! When we don't understand our situations, we can know that our mighty God is in control! Let's stand and sing "Wherever You Go."

 Sing "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9).

Worship Leader Tip

Before you do the rhythm, make sure preschoolers are near the front where they can see. You may even want to let some preschool children come up front with you to help lead the rhythm.

Say The writer of Psalm 23 knew about God's might. In verse four, he said, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me." Wow! This man didn't fear evil—even when he walked through the valley of the shadow of death. That sounds like a very scary place, don't you think?

Ask • Why wasn't the psalmist afraid? (He knew God was with him; he trusted God.)

Say God is mighty! God commanded us to not be afraid because he is mighty, he loves us, and he is in control!

Repeat Psalm 23:4 after me, a line at a time. Copy the motions you see me do.

Lead the children in saying the verse with the following motions. Accent the italicized syllables to give the verse rhythm.

E-ven though I walk (*March in place.*)

Through the val-ley of the sha-dow of death, (*Squat down on "valley." Raise your hands overhead, palms up, as if protecting yourself from an evil shadow on "shadow." Cross your arms over your chest and bow your head on "death."*)

I will fear no ev-il, (*Stand and shake your finger back and forth as if saying no.*)

For you are with me; (*Point up three times.*)

Your rod and your staff, (*Extend your left hand as if holding a rod on "rod." Extend your right hand in a fist on "staff."*)

They com-fort me. (*Cross your arms across your chest one at a time, with your hands still in fists on "comfort." Look down on "me."*)

God is mighty! What a comforting thought.

Ask • How does it make you feel to know that our God is mightier than anyone or anything? (Safe; good; happy.)

Say When I look at all God has done and all he is doing, I want to worship him. God is mighty. He can do anything!

Ask • What kinds of mighty things do you see God doing today? (He brought us to church safely; he made it a beautiful sunny day; he made my brother get better.)

Say Let's sing "Watching Over You" to help us remember this verse and to praise God for being a shepherd who watches over us.



Sing "Watching Over You."

Have the children sit down. Hold up the unplugged lamp. Try to turn it on.

Say I would like to turn on this lamp, but it doesn't seem to be working.

Ask • What do you think is wrong with my lamp? (You need to plug it in; it needs power.)

Say I think you're right. This lamp needs power.

Plug in the lamp, and turn it on.

Say The electricity from the outlet gives this lamp the power it needs to shine brightly.

Hold up the toy and try to turn it on.

Say This toy needs power, too.

Turn the toy around, looking it over carefully. Pretend you are trying to find a plug.

Say I can't find an electrical cord for this toy. If I can't plug it in, it won't get the power it needs.

Ask • What do you think I should do? (Change the batteries; put some batteries in; get a new toy.)

Take the batteries from their hiding place, place them in the toy, and turn it on.

Say This toy gets its power from a different source. Batteries give the toy the power it needs to run.

Lamps and toys may get their power from different sources. But our power can only come through one source: God.

Ask • Why do we need God's power? (He made us; he knows what's best for us; because God is more powerful than anything.)

Say God is mighty. He can do anything! God never, ever, has a power shortage. God has proven his strength time and time again, and he has never failed. Let's stand and sing "There's Power in the Blood" in honor of God's might.

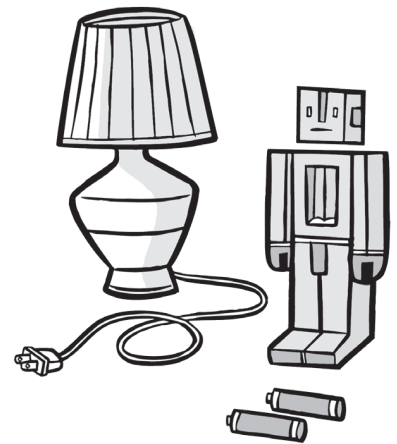
▶ Sing "There's Power in the Blood."

Let the children sit down.

Say Our next song, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah," is a prayer to our mighty God! *Jehovah* is another name for God. The Israelites prayed that God would guide them safely to the Promised Land. They didn't know the way through the desert, and they had powerful enemies to face along the way. This song is a prayer that could have been written by one of the Israelites. It asks God for guidance, food, and water. It also asks for his strength and protection—things the Israelites needed.

We need these things, too! The song calls God the bread of heaven, the one who gives us spiritual strength in the same way that food gives our bodies physical strength. God is the strong deliverer, the one who protects us from dangerous things. Let's sing this song as a prayer to our mighty God.

▶ Sing "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah."





Say *Jehovah is one Bible name for God. El Shaddai is another. El Shaddai means “God Almighty.” What a perfect name for our mighty God! He has all the power he needs to do absolutely anything. He has all the power we need. WOW! That’s true might.*

Choose a partner, and answer the following questions together:



- **How has God used his might to provide for his people in the past?** (He helped them escape from Egypt; he sent a lamb to be sacrificed instead of Isaac.)
- **How does God use his might to provide what we need today?** (He sends friends to help us in hard times; he gives us strength when we don’t feel like we can handle something.)

Give partners time to discuss the questions. Let volunteers share their ideas with the group.



Say *God is mighty and powerful. Through his love and through the ram, God saved Abraham’s son Isaac. He parted the Red Sea and provided dry land so the Israelites could escape from Pharaoh’s army. He forgave the outcast, the woman everyone else wanted to destroy. He uses his might to set his children free from sin.*

God is the same today as he was in Bible times. God loves people, and he uses his might to set them free from sin. God is powerful! Let’s stand and sing “Power Shuffle.”



Sing “Power Shuffle.”



Pray *Lord, you are mighty, and you use your power for good. You provide all we need. You set your people free. Nothing is more powerful than you, our mighty God. In Jesus’ name, amen.*



Let’s Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 15-16

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let’s Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

* *God's Game Plan*

Form groups of four or five children. Give each group a Bible, a sheet of poster board, scissors, glue, and various craft supplies gathered from your surplus. Assign one of the following Bible references to each group: Exodus 13:17-22, 14:1-9, 14:10-18, 14:19-20, 14:21-22, 14:23-25, and 14:26-31.

Let each group of children read the Bible passage and make a banner showing something from the passage that reveals God's might. For example, Exodus 13:17-22 shows God's power to lead his people using pillars of cloud and fire.

When the children finish the banners, let each group tell the others what they discovered about the acts of our mighty God.

* *God Is on Our Side*

Gather the children.

Say **God is mighty! He was on the Israelites' side, and his power saved the Israelites. I'm glad God is on our side, too! Let's celebrate God's might!**

Have children form five groups. You may wish to use the words "God is on our side," having each child say one of the words around the room. Then all those who said "God" will form one group, all who said "is" will form another group, and so on. Give a representative from each group a piece of paper and a pencil.

Say **God was on the side of other people in the Bible, too. Name someone from the Bible whom God helped.** Allow the children to recall other instances of God's power in biblical lives.

God is on our side, too. His power isn't limited to people in the Bible. It's for us today. Let's write some songs about God's power to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Choose a recorder to write your group's song. Think of someone who depended on God's might in a specific situation. Work together to write a song about that situation. When everyone is finished, each group can sing its song to the others.

Give the children time to work. If a group struggles for an idea, suggest the stories of David and Goliath, Joshua and the wall of Jericho, Daniel in the lion's den, or a situation that happened to someone they know personally.

Let each group sing its song to the others.



Say God is mighty! He made heaven and earth. He saved his people, the Israelites, from slavery in Egypt. He helps his people today, too. Praise his mighty name!

Thumb-Wrestle Challenge

Have kids form pairs and assume thumb-wrestling position (fingers hooked and thumbs on top).



Say We're going to have a thumb-wrestling tournament! You'll have a thumb-wrestling match with your partner. The winning partner will go on to play another match. The other partner will follow the winner and cheer him or her on. You'll keep following the winners, chanting their names and cheering them on until we're down to two opponents.

Have kids start their thumb-wrestling match by saying, "1, 2, 3, 4, I declare a thumb war." After "war," kids can start trying to win their thumb-wrestling match by pinning their partner's thumb down.

As kids play, randomly go around helping certain kids by holding down their partners' thumbs so they can be pinned. Continue the tournament by having winners form new pairs with other winners, while their partners cheer them on.

Direct your first three questions to the children you didn't help.



- **What kept you from being the ultimate champion of our tournament?** (You pinned my thumb down; I could've beat my opponent, but I couldn't beat both of you.)
- **How did you feel when I helped your opponent?** (I was upset; mad.)
- **If I hadn't helped pin your thumb down, do you think you could have won the whole thing? Why or why not?** (Yes, because I'm really good at this; no, but I might've won that round.)

Direct the next questions to the children you helped.



- **How did you feel when you were competing without my help?** (Scared; confident; nervous that I'd lose.)
- **Did you think you had a chance to win the whole thing? Why or why not?** (Yes, because I'm strong; no, because my thumbs are kind of small.)
- **How did you feel when I helped you?** (I knew I'd win easily; I hoped you'd keep helping me.)

Direct the rest of the questions to the group.

(continued on page 17)

The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

Exodus 13:17–14:31

Worship Theme:



God is mighty.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Pillars of Cloud and Fire—Cut 3-inch pieces of the yellow and orange crepe paper streamers so you have several for each child.

God's Mighty Rescue Plan—You'll need a source of running water, (water fountain, sink, or pitcher of water) and a pan to catch the water.

Hold the Flow—Fill an aluminum pie pan about 1 inch full of water. Place the pan on a towel.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo read "God's Mighty Rescue Plan."
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today's worship session.



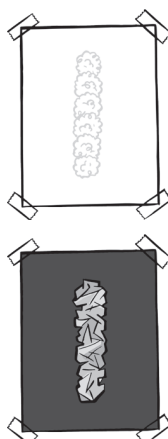
Pillars of Cloud and Fire

Gather the children around tables.

Say Our mighty God used a pillar of cloud during the day and pillar of fire at night to lead his people safely away from Egypt and to the Promised Land. Imagine that! God is so mighty, he can make clouds go where he wants them to go. He can make fire do what he wants it to do.

Ask • How do you think God made the cloud and fire obey?

Say I don't know how God made the cloud and fire obey, but he must be very mighty because they did obey.



Let's use our imaginations. Picture in your mind what you think a pillar of cloud looked like. Pillars are straight and tall. Give each child a piece of blue construction paper and some cotton balls. Provide glue sticks.

Now you can use the cotton balls to make a pillar of clouds.

Give the children time to work. Offer help only if it is necessary.

Say Now imagine what a pillar of fire looked like.

Ask • How would a pillar of fire be different from a pillar of cloud?

Give the children the black paper and several 3-inch segments of the paper streamers. Let them make pillars of fire on the black paper. When they have finished, help the children glue their pictures together back to back. Have the children take their finished projects to the circle for story time.

God's Mighty Rescue Plan

Gather the children. Have them hold their pillars of cloud and fire in their laps.

Say After God rescued his people from Egypt, he led them to a new place to live.

Ask • How do you think God led the way?

Say During the day, God used a pillar of cloud to show the people where to go. Show me your pillars of cloud.

Have the children hold up their cloud.

Say The pillar of cloud floated high up in the sky for all the people to see. When they followed the cloud, they knew they were going the right way.

At nighttime, though, the people couldn't see the cloud.

Ask • How do you think our mighty God solved that problem?

Say Whenever it was dark, the pillar of cloud became a pillar of fire. The people could see the fire in the black night sky. Show me your pillars of fire.

Have the children hold up their fires.

Say One day God led the people to the Red Sea. The water was deep and wide. The people were afraid because Pharaoh had changed his mind about letting them leave Egypt—his army was coming to get them! They would have to cross the sea to get away from the army.

Ask • How do you think God rescued the people?

Say God did a very mighty thing that day—mightier than making pillars of cloud or fire! God stopped the water and made a path of dry land right through the sea! Let's see if we can stop water.

Have the children leave their pictures where they are sitting and follow you as you pretend to cross a dry desert, climb over a few sand dunes, and arrive at the Red Sea, which can be any source of running water, such as a sink, a drinking fountain, or a pitcher.

Turn on the water, and let the children take turns trying to pass their hands through the stream of water without getting wet.

Say You all got wet. But God did a miracle that kept the children of Israel dry. Turn off the water, and let the children dry their hands on paper towels.

I stopped the water by turning it off, but the Red Sea didn't have a handle to turn or a lid to close! Our mighty God held the waters back with his own power. The water stopped flowing, and the Israelites crossed the sea on dry land.

Have the children pretend to cross the Red Sea by walking their fingers through the air where the stream of water would be running if the faucet were still turned on.

Say God is mighty. God made the clouds move to show people where he wanted them to go. God made the fire move to show people where he wanted them to go. God turned off the flow of the water and held it back to make dry land for the Israelites to cross. Nothing is as powerful as our mighty God!

* Hold the Flow

Set out the pie pan and towel you prepared before the session.

Say I've created a tiny Red Sea so we can see if we can create dry land across it. You can try different ideas, but you can only use your own power. The water has to stay in the pie plate, just like the water stayed in the Red Sea in the Bible story.

Ask • What do you think might happen if we all try really hard to make a dry space in the pie plate?

Let each child take a turn trying to scoop the water to one or both sides as the others watch. As each child makes an attempt, give him or her a drinking straw to try to blow the water away. When the child's turn is finished, dispose of the straw he or she used. Encourage the rest of the children to make observations as they watch. After each child has had a turn, gather the children in an area away from the water.

Preschool Leader Tip

If you have a large group, set up one pie plate and towel for every five to six children with plenty of space between each group.

Ask • Why was it so hard to hold the water back?

• Do you think it's possible for people to hold back water with their own power?

Say God did something that no human can do. Our God is more mighty and powerful than we are. God is more powerful than the water, or the clouds, or fire, or anything! Let's celebrate God's power with this rhyming prayer. Watch what I do, and do it along with me.

You held back that water. (Point upward; then put the backs of your hands together in front of you. Push your hands toward the sides.)

You moved that noisy sea. (Pat your hands on your thighs.)

If you can do those mighty works, (Make muscles.)

Then you can care for me! (Hug yourself.)

3

Let's Pray!

The Offering

Say God is mighty. He can do anything he wants to do.

Ask • What do you think God can do with the offerings we give?
(Feed hungry people; send missionaries anywhere he wants; anything.)

Say As you give your offerings today, remember that you are giving to a mighty God. Offer your gift for God to use as he pleases. God is mighty. He will use our gifts in just the right way.

Pray Lord, we trust you. All we have belongs to you. Use the gifts we bring today to do what is best for your kingdom. In Jesus' name, amen.

Take the offering.

Circle Prayer

Have the children stand in a circle, holding hands and bowing heads.

Say Let's praise God for his mighty acts. Think of something God has done. You may think of something you've read in the Bible. You may think of something he's done for you. You may think of something you've heard he's done for friends or family.

I will pray first. I'll praise God for one of his mighty acts. When I'm done, I'll squeeze [name of child to your left]'s hand. [Child's name] will praise God for one of his mighty acts and squeeze [next child's name]'s hand. We'll go all the way around the circle. If you don't wish to pray aloud, quietly squeeze the next person's hand when it is your turn. That person will know to go ahead. Let's pray now.

Pray God, you are mighty! You saved your people, the Israelites, from slavery in Egypt.

Squeeze the hand of the child to your left. Let each child pray in turn.

Pray You are so mighty, God. We're glad you are on our side. We praise and worship you. Thank you for all you have done. In Jesus' name, amen.

"No Greater Gift"

Say God is mighty! He sent a pillar of cloud to lead the Israelites during the day. He sent a pillar of fire to lead them at night. It must have felt like a warm hug to know God was caring for them. They must have rested well at night, knowing God was in charge. God uses his might for our good. God cares for us 24 hours a day. Let's sing "No Greater Gift" as a prayer of praise to our mighty God.



Sing "No Greater Gift."

Pray Lord, you have been so good to us. We're glad you are our mighty God. In Jesus' name, amen.



Encouragement for Leaders

Remember as you teach your students that what you say may very well bless the hearts of adults at home!

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WEEK	BIBLE STORY	THEME
Week 1	The Israelites Cross the Red Sea (Exodus 13:17–14:31)	God is mighty.
Week 2	God Sends Quail and Manna (Exodus 16:1–26)	God gives good gifts.
Week 3	God Provides Water (Exodus 17:1–7)	God is patient.
Week 4	God Gives the Ten Commandments Part 1 (Exodus 19:16–20:21)	God is worthy of honor.
Week 5	God Gives the Ten Commandments Part 2 (Exodus 19:16–20:21)	Respecting others honors God.
Week 6	The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf (Exodus 32:1–25)	God alone is worthy of worship.
Week 7	The Israelites Build the Tabernacle (Exodus 35:4–36:38)	God deserves our excellent service.
Week 8	Moses Sends Spies Into the Promised Land (Numbers 13:1–14:23)	God never fails.
Week 9	Balaam's Donkey Talks (Numbers 22:1–38)	God helps us obey him.
Week 10	Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel (Joshua 1:1–11)	God encourages us.
Week 11	Joshua Sends Spies to Jericho (Joshua 2:1–24)	Our faithfulness honors God.
Week 12	The Israelites Cross the Jordan River (Joshua 3:1–4:24)	We can thank God for what he does.
Week 13	God Gives Victory Over Jericho (Joshua 6:1–27)	God always wins.



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