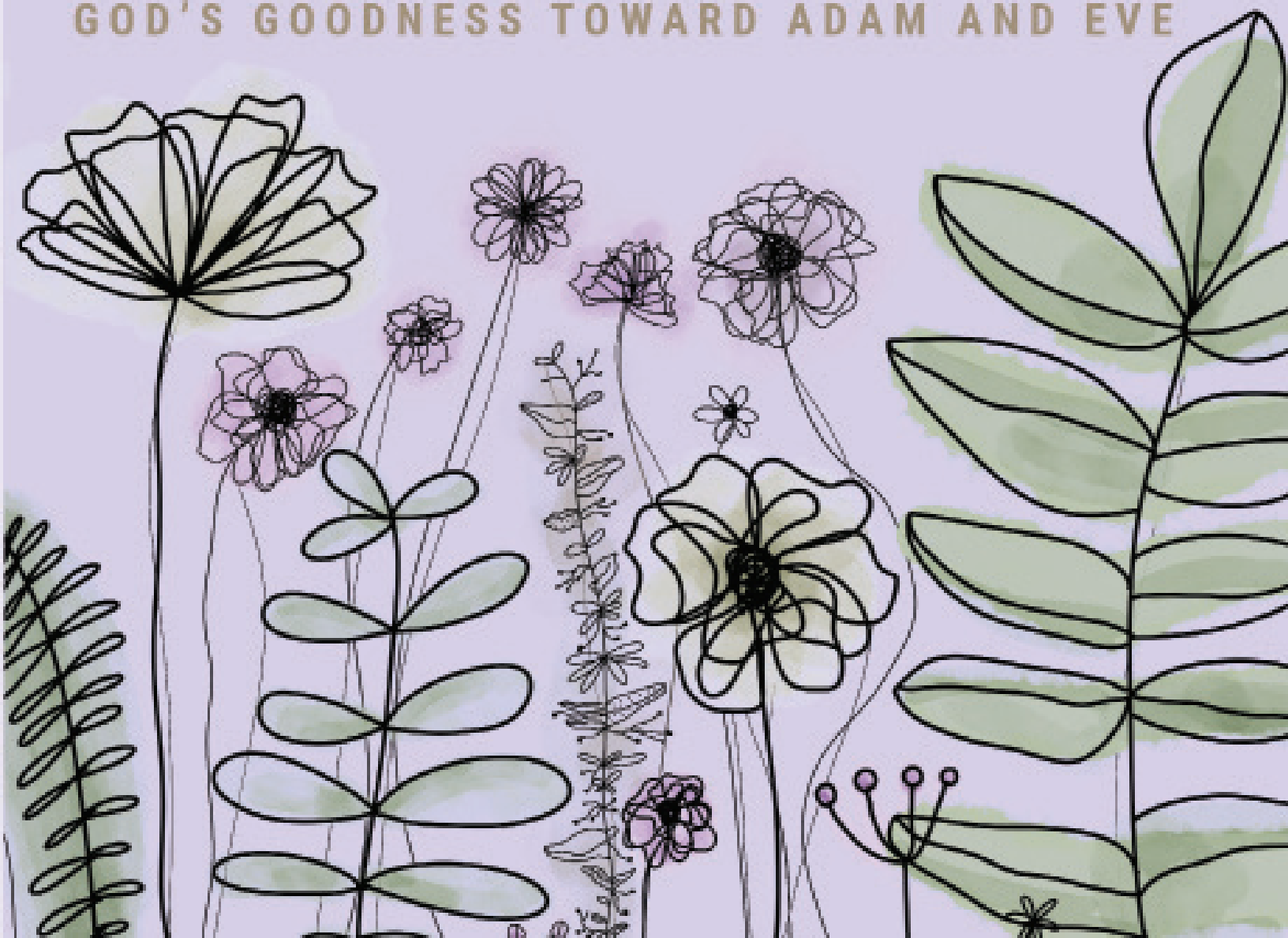


# IN THE GARDEN

GOD'S GOODNESS TOWARD ADAM AND EVE



# MADE IN HIS IMAGE

## BIBLE PASSAGE

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7, 22 (ICB)

## BIG IDEA

God does everything for our good.

## FOCUS VERSE

"We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love Him." Romans 8:28 (ICB)

## LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | *Study Activity Pages* | *Study Questions & Answers Activity Page* | Timer | Small Whiteboards and Markers OR Paper and Pencils | 8" Paper Plates | Aluminum Foil Sheets | Jumbo Popsicle Sticks | Glue | Stickers (Optional) | Pom Poms (Optional) | Markers or Crayons |

## GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Tell me about a talent God has given you. (What are you good at?)
- Who from your family do you most resemble?

## WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Teach your kids about kneeling in worship. Say, "When we kneel in worship, we lower ourselves [humbling ourselves] to lift God higher. Kneeling is a way to use our bodies to show God how much we need Him." We recommend playing either the song "Great are You Lord" by All Sons and Daughters or "What a Beautiful Name" by Hillsong Kids. Encourage your class to kneel as they listen to the words of the song.

## PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Pray over your kids before starting class.

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** *"God, please speak to us today. Teach us to listen for Your Spirit with the eyes and ears of our hearts. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

## REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Puzzle Piece |

**BACKGROUND:** Say, "Today we get to start a new unit about the beginning of time! Our unit is called *In the Garden*. That's where it all started, In the Garden! This week we are going to start at the beginning of the Bible where we read about the first two people that ever lived. Does anyone know who those two

people might be? [Adam and Eve] What do you guys know about these two? [Wait for responses.] Great! Let's begin our new series, *In the Garden*. Who would like to put up our first puzzle piece for this unit?"

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Before we read from God's Word, let's play a game."

## ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Study Activity Pages (1 set per team) | Study Questions & Answers Activity Page (1 set per class) | Timer (1 per class) | Small Whiteboards and Markers OR Paper and Pencils (1 set per team) |

Say, "This game is going to test your memories. It will seem easier than it is, so you need to focus for your team to win. Our game is called, *Study the Image*. To remind you, an 'image' is a picture or reflection of something, but it is not the real thing. [Examples include your reflection in a mirror or a photograph.] Now that we all know what an image is, it is time to play our game! Let's see how you do."

**GAME GOAL:** To study each image as a team to accurately answer all of the questions.



BEFORE CLASS, PRINT OUT THE *STUDY* ACTIVITY PAGES OR PREPARE THEM TO BE DISPLAYED ON A SCREEN. IF YOU HAVE A LARGE CLASS, PRINT OUT MULTIPLE SETS OF THE IMAGES OR PROJECT THEM ONTO A LARGE SCREEN.

## HOW TO PLAY:

- Split the children into groups of four to six. (If you have a small class, divide into teams of two to three kids.)
- Starting with the first picture, show the teams the image for 10-15 seconds and then hide it and do not show it again.
- Next, read the list of questions from the *Study Questions & Answers* Activity Page that go with the first picture and give each team 30 seconds to quietly discuss the answers and record them on their whiteboards.
- When the timer goes off, the class will show their whiteboards at the same time.
- Once each team has revealed their answers on their whiteboards, announce the correct answers. Each team gets one point per correct answer.
- Continue this process with remaining images. Play as time allows.

**MODIFICATION:** If you want this to be a team-building game instead of a competition, solve the questions as a class.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "How did you do at *Study the Image*? Was it hard? Well, there is a particular reason we played, *Study the Image*. Today, we will learn what the word 'image' has to do with you and me.

## LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Our first lesson of our new unit, *In the Garden*, begins when God created the entire world. Did you know that He made *everything*? God made the sun, moon, stars, sky, waters. He made the animals, plants, trees, and the first people. Who were they again? That's right, Adam and Eve! But when God created Adam and Eve it was different than when He created everything else. Do you want to know how humans [people]

are different than the rest of God's creation? [Wait for responses.] Great! Let's read His Word and find out." Read Genesis 1:26-27.

**26 Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image and likeness. And let them rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky. Let them rule over the tame animals, over all the earth and over all the small crawling animals on the earth."**

**27 So God created human beings in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female.**

Say, "Can you tell me how God created Adam and Eve? What made them different than the rest of God's creation? [Wait for responses.] God created human beings [people] in His image! Genesis 2 gives us a little more detail." Read Genesis 2:7, 22.

**7 Then the Lord God took dust from the ground and formed man from it. The Lord breathed the breath of life into the man's nose. And the man became a living person.**

**22 The Lord God used the rib from the man to make a woman. Then the Lord brought the woman to the man.**

Say, "Wow! We just read in Genesis 2:7 that God breathed the breath of life into man's nose. God's breath is in our lungs! And in Genesis 2:22 we read that God created woman from man. When God created people, He made us different from every other living thing on earth. We are the only creatures God created in His own image [likeness]. Who remembers what the word 'image' means? [Review the definition and examples from ENGAGE.] No animal, bird, fish, or plant has ever been created in God's image. We were created unique! We have been created by God and for God. That is very good.

"You see, **God does everything for our good**. God had a special plan for Adam and Eve when He created them. We read in Genesis 2 & 3 that God's plan for Adam and Eve included that they rule over all the animals and that the garden was to supply everything they might need. We'll read more about the garden God created for Adam and Eve next week."

## JOINING TO JESUS

"Did you know that Jesus was with God in the beginning? Even though we do not read about Jesus' life until later in the Bible, Jesus has ALWAYS and will always be with God [John 1:1-2]. When Jesus was sent to earth, God created Him in His perfect image and likeness. Jesus came as God to show us who God is."

**TRANSITION:** Say, "If we are created in God's image, that means we are like Him without actually being God. Let's talk a little more about what it means to be 'made in the image of God.'"



THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO EMPHASIZE THAT GOD CREATED EACH PERSON UNIQUELY AND PURPOSEFULLY. HE GIVES US AN IDENTITY AND ONE WAY HE DOES THAT IS BY MAKING US EITHER BOYS OR GIRLS. GOD LOVES US AND HE NEVER MAKES MISTAKES.

## DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Let me ask you a few questions."

### 1. Who does everything for our good?

Response: **God does everything for our good.**

### 2. How did God create Adam? How did He create Eve?

Response: God created the first man from dust and breathed life into him. God created the first woman from man.

### 3. How are we different than everything else God created?

Response: We are created in God's image.

### 4. How has God made us like Himself? (In other words, what does it mean that we are made in the image of God?)

Response: We have been created to care for God's creation (as He cares for us). We were made to be creative (as He demonstrated when He created our fantastic world). We also can think, plan, imagine and remember, and we have a conscience—God teaches us to distinguish between right and wrong. Most importantly, we are created to know God! What a wonderful gift that no other creature has!

### 5. Although we are created in the image of God, we are not God. How are we different from God?

Response: Examples include that God is perfectly holy. (We see this exhibited in Jesus, the only perfectly righteous human.) God is also all-powerful (omnipotent), all-knowing (omniscient), and all-present (omnipresent).

### 6. How do you feel knowing God has made you in His image?

Response: Answers will vary.

### 7. What do we learn about God from our story?

Response: God does everything for our good, God created us in His image, God is perfectly good, God loves us, God made me, **God does everything for our good**, etc.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Remember, **God does everything for our good**, and one of most loving things He has ever done for us is to make us in His image. Because of that, we can be His children and His friends!"

## RESPOND — 10 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | 8" Paper Plates (1 per child) | Aluminum Foil Sheets (1 per child) | Jumbo Popsicle Sticks (2 per child) | Glue | Stickers (Optional) | Pom Poms (Optional) | Markers or Crayons |

Say, "**God does everything for our good!** He created us in His likeness [image] for our good. He made us boys and girls for our good. **God does everything for our good**, and now, we are going to do an activity to help us remember that truth."

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Give each child a paper plate, a sheet of aluminum foil, jumbo popsicle stick, glue, and a marker. Explain to the kids that they will be making their own “mirror” today to remind them that they are made in the image of God.
- Instruct the kids to glue the sheet of foil to the paper plate. (They can wrap the extra foil around the back of the paper plate or trim the extra with scissors.)
- Have the kids glue the top part of the popsicle stick to the back of the paper plate so it can be used at the handle.
- Around the outside border of the plate, instruct the kids to write, “Created in His Image.”
- Optional: Allow the children to decorate their “mirrors” with stickers or pom poms.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “**God does everything for our good.** Do you believe that? He created you in His image for your good! What a good God we serve!”

**MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES**

Say, “Knowing that **God does everything for our good**, we can start practicing our new memory verse. As we practice, pay close attention to the words and the meaning of the verse.” Recite the verse to the class two times. Say it together twice, then release the kids to practice it with a partner.

*“We know (point to head) that in everything (point to everything) God works for the good (thumbs up) of those who love Him (arms crossed across chest).” Romans 8:28 (ICB) (hold your hands out like a book)*

**CHALLENGE:** Extend the MEMORIZE section by discussing the verse:

1. What good things does God do for us?
2. Why is it important that we KNOW God is always working for our good (and not for evil)?
3. Name some of the exciting ways God made us in His image.

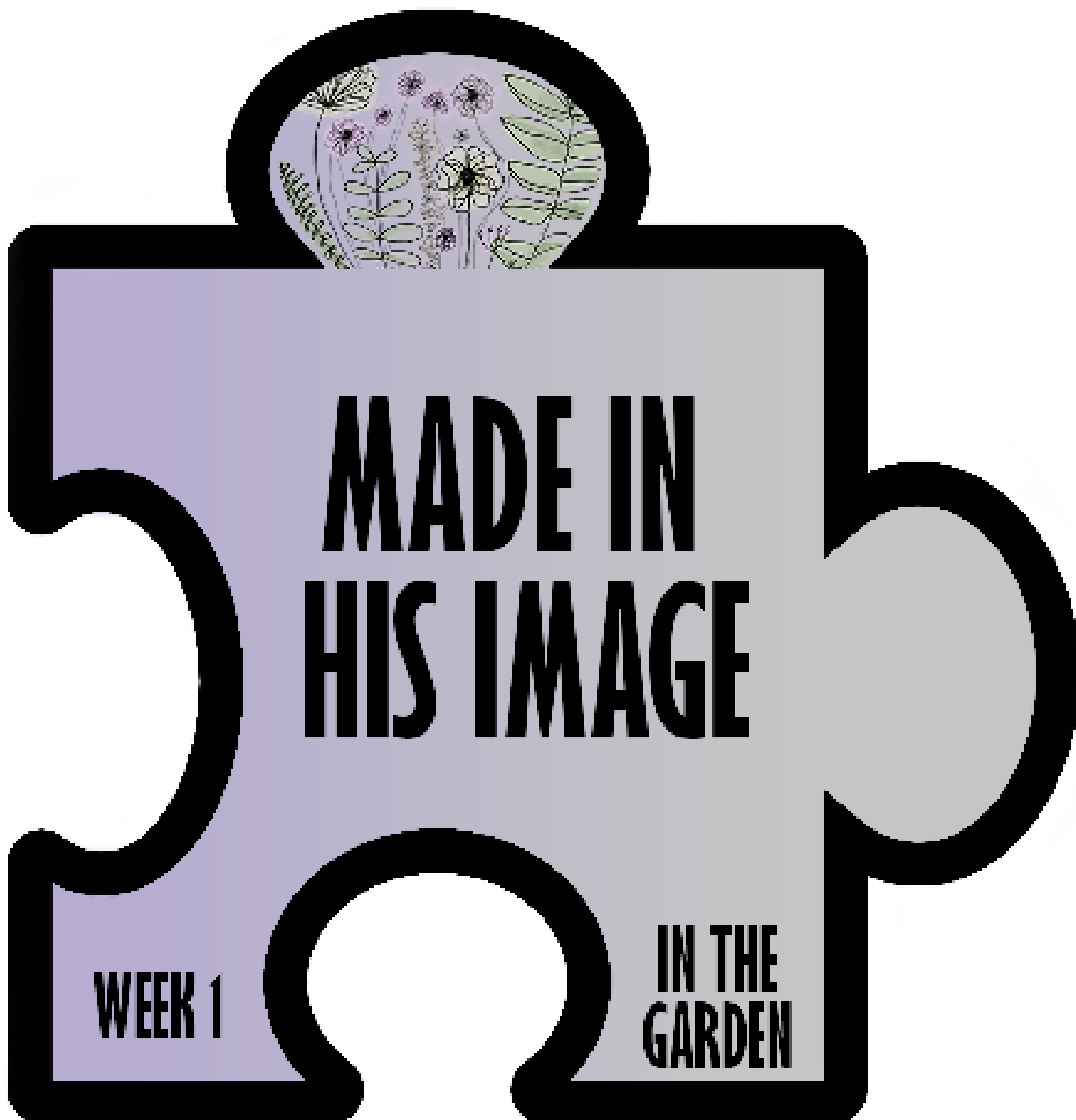
**REFLECT — 5 MINUTES**

Say, “When something bad happens, remember, **God does everything for our good**—even if it does not make sense at the moment. We can trust God, knowing that He is a Good Father who created us and never leaves us. Because He has made us in His image, we can have a relationship with Him. We can always trust Him, and we can always talk with Him. Let’s take some time to do that right now.”

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** “God, thank You for creating each of us in Your image. Thank You for also creating us to be different from anyone else. Help us understand what a gift it is to be loved by You and to be able to know You. In Jesus’ name. Amen!”

**RELEASE — 5 MINUTES**

If you did not get through the ENGAGE game, continue it now, and continue to reinforce that God created us in His image. Before you conclude, remind the kids of this month’s big idea: **God does everything for our good!** Finally, be sure to give a parent guide to every parent/guardian when they pick up their child.











buy  
teacher  
appreciation  
gift

Parent  
Teacher  
conference  
at 1pm

Soccer  
practice  
3pm

Stay  
Positive!!

Breathe!  
:)

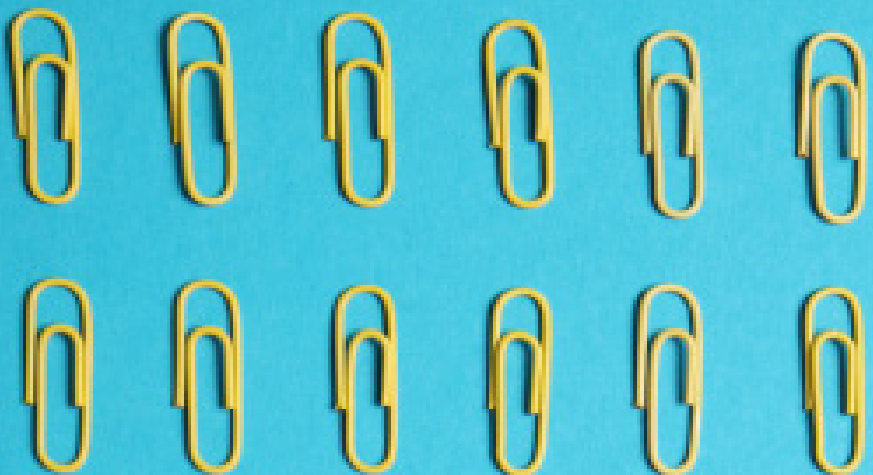
Don't forget  
pick up  
drycleaning

Pick up  
Dinner

Wash  
Baseball









# STUDY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## **Study Activity Page 1- Pets Picture**

1. How many chickens were in the picture? (1) 2. What are all the animals standing on? (Either a Fence or Wood) 3. Was there a cat in the picture? (No) 4. How many pets were in the picture overall? (6)

## **Study Activity Page 2 - Paint Picture**

1. What color paint did the baby have in his hands? (Blue) 2. There was a green, yellow, and blue paint jar in the picture. There was another color of paint on the baby's feet that there was no jar for. What color was that? (Red) 3. What was behind the baby? (A Laundry Basket)

## **Study Activity Page 3 - Sticky Note Picture**

1. Was there an orange sticky note in the picture? (Yes) 2. Where were the sticky notes placed? (On a Steering Wheel in a Car) 3. How many sticky notes were in the picture? (8)

## **Study Activity Page 4 - Drawing Picture**

1. What color are the scissors in the picture? (Yellow) 2. What color colored pencil did the child have in his hand? (Green) 3. What color is the piece of paper the child was drawing on? (White)

## **Study Activity Page 5 - Paper Clip Picture**

1. The backgrounds were two different colors. What colors were the backgrounds? (Yellow, Blue) 2. What were the colors of the paper clips (Yellow, Blue, Red, White). 3. Which side had the messy paper clips: yellow or blue? (The Yellow Side)

## **Study Activity Page 6 - Food Picture**

1. How many forks were there in the picture? (9) 2. Was there an olive on one of the forks? (No) 3. What are the foods on the forks? (Broccoli, Shrimp, Lemon, Mushrooms, Red Onion, Meat, Pickles, Salmon, Tomatoes).

# IN HIS GARDEN

## BIBLE PASSAGE

Genesis 2:8-10, 15 (ICB)

## BIG IDEA

God does everything for our good.

## FOCUS VERSE

"We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love Him." Romans 8:28 (ICB)

## LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Hula Hoop | *My Garden Cards* Activity Page or Small Balls | *In His Garden* Activity Page | Large Sequins | Blue Yarn | Glue Sticks | Markers or Crayons | Other Art Supplies | Pictures of Gardens |

## GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Is there a kind of "work" that you enjoy? What do you like about it? (The "work" can be hobbies like coloring, building things, etc., as well as chores they do around the home.)
- What type of work do you not enjoy? Why? (Examples may include doing the dishes, cleaning your room, sweeping the floor, etc.)

## WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Throughout church history, Christians have used music to teach truths about God. You have that same opportunity to teach through the songs you choose each week, so select music with lyrics that glorify God. To coordinate with this month's theme, include songs that focus on God as our Creator. Two options are "Sing" by Ellie Holcomb and "Made for This" by Group Publishing. Both songs can be found on YouTube.

## PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Pray before beginning the lesson.

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** "God, help us learn more about You in today's story. Prepare our minds to hear new things about You, and give us a fresh understanding of Your Word! Amen."

## REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Puzzle Piece |

**BACKGROUND:** Say, “Last week, we started a new unit called *In the Garden*. Does anyone remember what our first story was about? [Wait for responses.] Right! We learned that God created Adam and Eve in His own image. [Remind kids that an ‘image’ is a picture or reflection of something, but it is not the real thing.] Humans are the only creatures God made in His own image; we are God’s special creation! Did you know **God does everything for our good**? It was for our good that we were made in His image. Now, we get to hear another story from *In the Garden* about how God always works everything for our good!” Post the next puzzle piece.



USE THE PUZZLE PIECES TO REVIEW THE PREVIOUS LESSONS EACH WEEK. THE LESSONS BUILD ON ONE ANOTHER TO HELP THE KIDS SEE THE “BIG PICTURE” OF THE BIBLE.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “You know what time it is. It is game time!”

## ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Hula Hoop (1 per class) | *My Garden Cards* Activity Page (5 per class) or Small Balls (30 per class) |

Say, “Today, we are playing *Build a Garden*! Each team will compete to be the fastest team to build their garden. Do you think your team can win?”

**GAME GOAL:** To build your “garden” faster than any other team.



BEFORE CLASS, CUT THE *MY GARDEN CARDS* ACTIVITY PAGES ON THE SOLID LINE TO MAKE AT LEAST 30 DIFFERENT PLANT CARDS. THE KIDS WILL USE THESE TO “BUILD A GARDEN.” SCATTER THESE PLANT CARDS INSIDE THE HULA HOOP WHICH SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOM. IF USING PLASTIC BALLS INSTEAD (TO REPRESENT THE PLANTS), PLACE THEM INSIDE THE HULA HOOP.

## HOW TO PLAY:

- Divide everyone into four teams with equal age levels and abilities and assign each team one corner of the room. (Each group will work together to win their relay.)
- When given the “Go!” one person from each team must run to the middle, grab one “plant” out of the hula hoop and bring it back to their team.
- After the first “plant” is delivered to their group, the next person will race to get another “plant” as they work to “build their team’s garden.” (The team’s garden is simply a grouping of their “plants” in their appropriate corners.)
- The game concludes when the last “plant” is delivered to a team’s garden. The team with the most “plants” in their “garden” wins!

**CHALLENGE:** If the game is moving too quickly, make the method of movement to the hula hoop more challenging. For example, you could require that the children only hop or lunge to the hula hoop instead of running.



**TRANSITION:** Say, “How did your team do at building your garden? Did you fill your garden with ‘plants’? I think playing *Build a Garden* will help you with today’s lesson because now we get to hear a story about God’s special garden. Let’s read together now.”

## LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, “When God created people, He immediately placed them in a home. God put Adam and Eve in a perfect garden. Let’s take a moment to read about that garden. While I am reading, keep in mind that **God does everything for our good.**” Read Genesis 2:8-10, 15 (ICB).

<sup>8</sup> Then the Lord God planted a garden in the East, in a place called Eden. He put the man he had formed in that garden. <sup>9</sup> The Lord God caused every beautiful tree and every tree that was good for food to grow out of the ground. In the middle of the garden, God put the tree that gives life. And he put there the tree that gives the knowledge of good and evil. <sup>10</sup> A river flowed through Eden and watered the garden. From that point the river was divided. It had four streams flowing into it.

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God put the man in the garden of Eden to care for it and work it.

Say, “**God does everything for our good.** Did you hear how God created something wonderful for Adam and Eve?”

Ask, “What did God create for Adam and Eve’s good? [Wait for responses.] God did not leave Adam and Eve alone without a place to go. Instead, He made them a beautiful garden with trees full of food! He provided everything they needed. [God is called *Jehovah Jireh*—the Lord will provide.] God gave Adam and Eve the perfect garden to live in and care for. He did this for Adam and Eve’s good! Did you know that **God does everything for our good** too? God provides exactly what we need [just like He did for Adam and Eve], when we need it!”

## JOINING TO JESUS

God provided a beautiful Garden for Adam and Eve. It had everything they would ever need. In the same way, Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:28-30 that we shouldn’t worry because God will take care of us too! He will give us everything we need. Not only does God provide food and shelter, but He gave us what we needed most - Jesus. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. God really does provided everything we need and does everything for our good.

**TRANSITION:** Say, “**God does everything for our good.** He had Adam and Eve’s good in mind from the beginning, and God has our good in mind today.”

## DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Let’s talk about the story more.”

**1. Who does everything for our good?**

Response: **God does everything for our good.**

**2. What was God's garden called?**

Response: The Garden of Eden.

**3. Why did God create a garden for people?**

Response: God provided a garden so His people would have everything they needed to live and enjoy Him and His world.

**4. What did God give us that we needed the most?**

Response: Jesus came to die on the cross for our sins. God sent Jesus for our good.

**5. Read Matthew 6:28-30 aloud. What does this say about how God continues to provide for His children?**

Response: Answers will vary

**6. How have you seen God working for your good?**

Response: Answers will vary.

**7. What do we learn about God from our story?**

Response: **God does everything for our good**, God provides for us, God will never hurt me, God loves me more than anyone else, etc.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Remember, **God does everything for our good** just like He created a beautiful garden for Adam and Eve. God is good to us!"

**RESPOND — 10 MINUTES**

**MATERIALS:** | *In His Garden* Activity Page (1 per child) | Large Sequins (about 15 per child) | Blue Yarn (about 10 3" pieces per child) | Glue Sticks | Crayons | Other Art Supplies | Pictures of Gardens (optional) |

Say, "**God does everything for our good!** Do you believe that? He made a perfect, beautiful garden for Adam and Eve so they would have everything they needed. Who remembers some of the things God put in the garden of Eden? [Reread Genesis 2: 9-10.] Yes! God put beautiful trees with fruit and a river in the Garden. Let's create a beautiful garden like the one God made for Adam and Eve."



BEFORE CLASS, PRINT ONE *IN HIS GARDEN* ACTIVITY PAGE ON CARDSTOCK FOR EACH CHILD. IN A CENTRAL LOCATION, PROVIDE GLUE STICKS AND OTHER ART SUPPLIES SUCH AS COTTON BALLS, POM POMS, RIBBON, ETC. HANG PICTURES OF BEAUTIFUL GARDENS AROUND THE ROOM FOR INSPIRATION.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Give each child an *In His Garden* Activity Page, sequins, yarn, and crayons.
- Instruct the kids to create their own beautiful garden using their *In the Garden* Activity Page. In the tree, have the kids glue the sequins to resemble fruits that are good for eating. Then, the kids should glue their yarn to the river to make it look like flowing water.
- Give the children access to the other art supplies to finish up their gardens. Please encourage the children to create the most beautiful garden they can imagine.
- Finally, have the children take turns sharing what they like best about their gardens.



CHILDREN LOVE SEEING THEIR ARTWORK DISPLAYED. YOU COULD HANG THEIR CREATIONS AROUND THE ROOM. USE THEM TO DECORATE YOUR SPACE. CURRENT RESEARCH-BASED PRACTICES IN EDUCATION AFFIRM THAT PLACING FLOWERS AROUND THE ROOM OR PICTURES OF FLOWERS HELP TO INSPIRE KIDS.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Whenever you have a hard time believing **God does everything for our good**, go back and read the story of Adam and Eve in the garden. God loves you just as much as He loves Adam and Eve. He is a good Father. Remember, **God does everything for our good!**"

### MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "God does good things for His children! Let's practice our month's memory verse to remind us of this truth."

*"We know (point to head) that in everything (point to everything) God works for the good (thumbs up) of those who love Him (arms crossed across chest)." Romans 8:28 (ICB) (hold your hands out like a book)*

**CHALLENGE:** Sometimes, simply writing the memory verse will help the children remember it. Pass out blank paper and markers and have the kids write the verse on paper. Then, have them add little pictures alongside the words that will help them remember what they wrote.

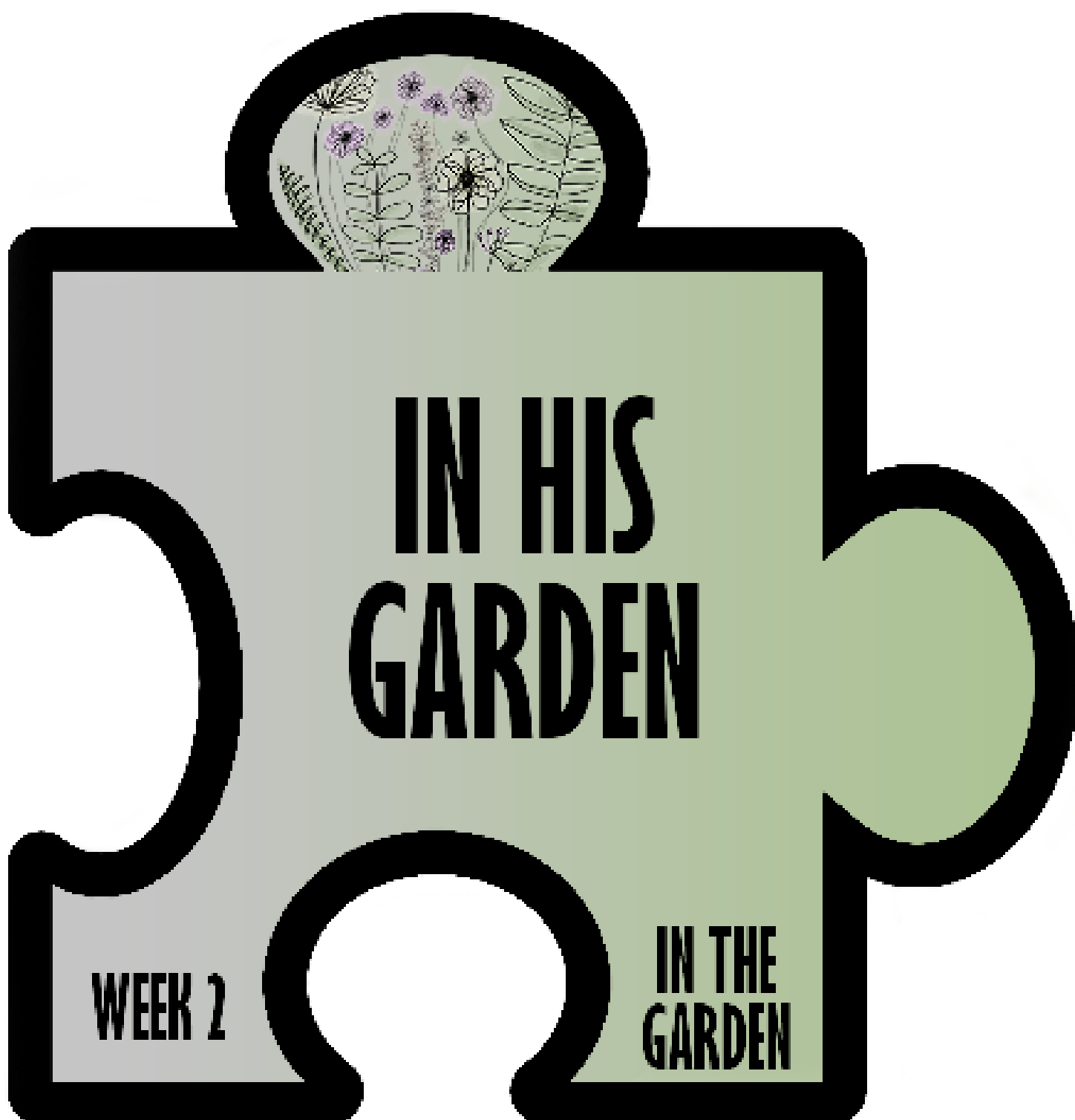
### REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

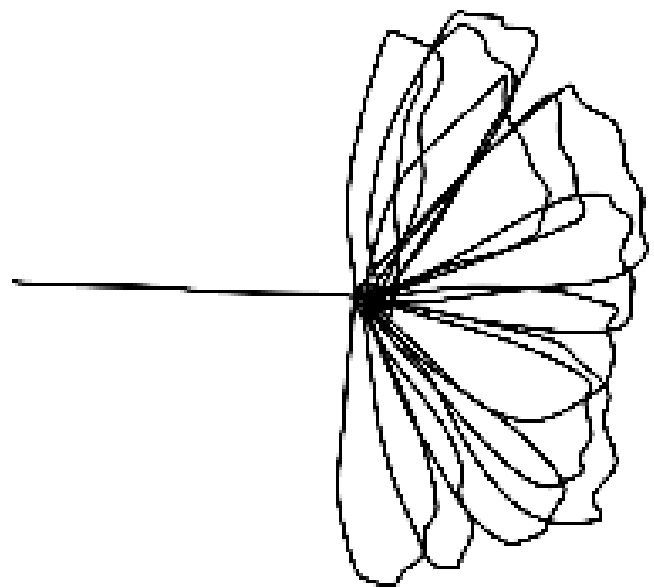
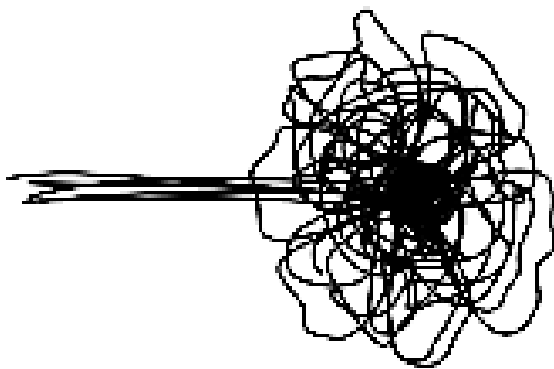
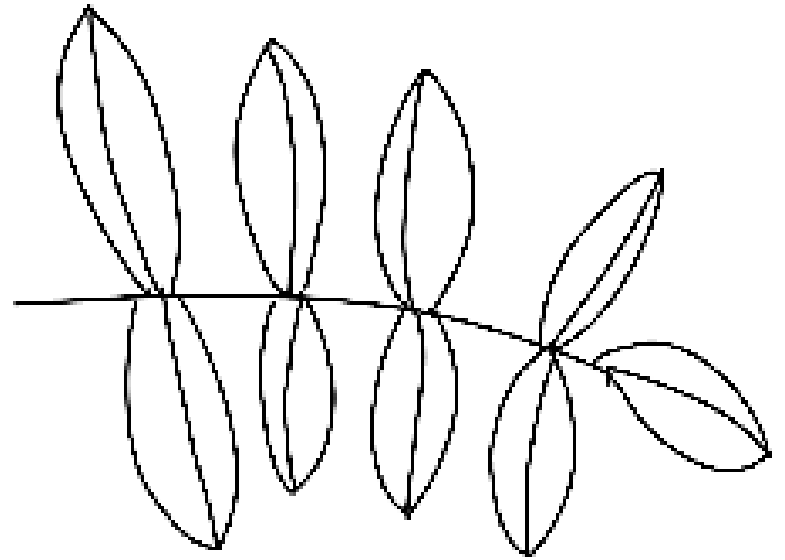
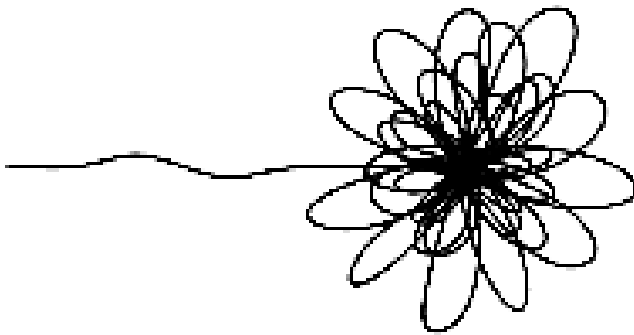
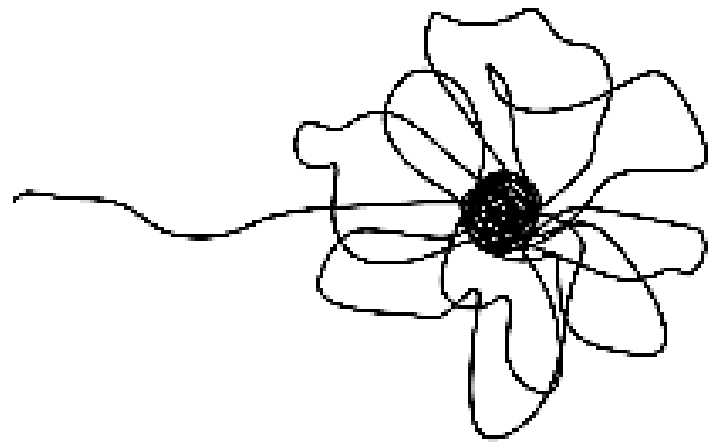
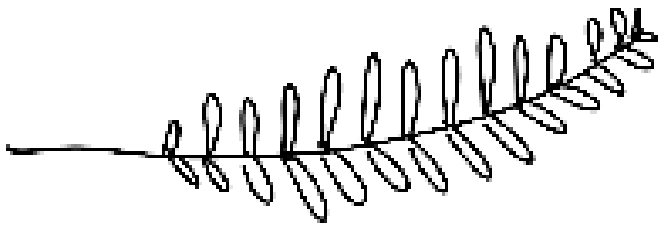
Say, "I hope you remember that **God does everything for our good**. Sometimes, the devil may make you think God is working against you, but that is a lie. God is only good [Mark 10:18]! Remind yourself of today's story: God worked for Adam and Eve's good by putting them in His beautiful garden with food."

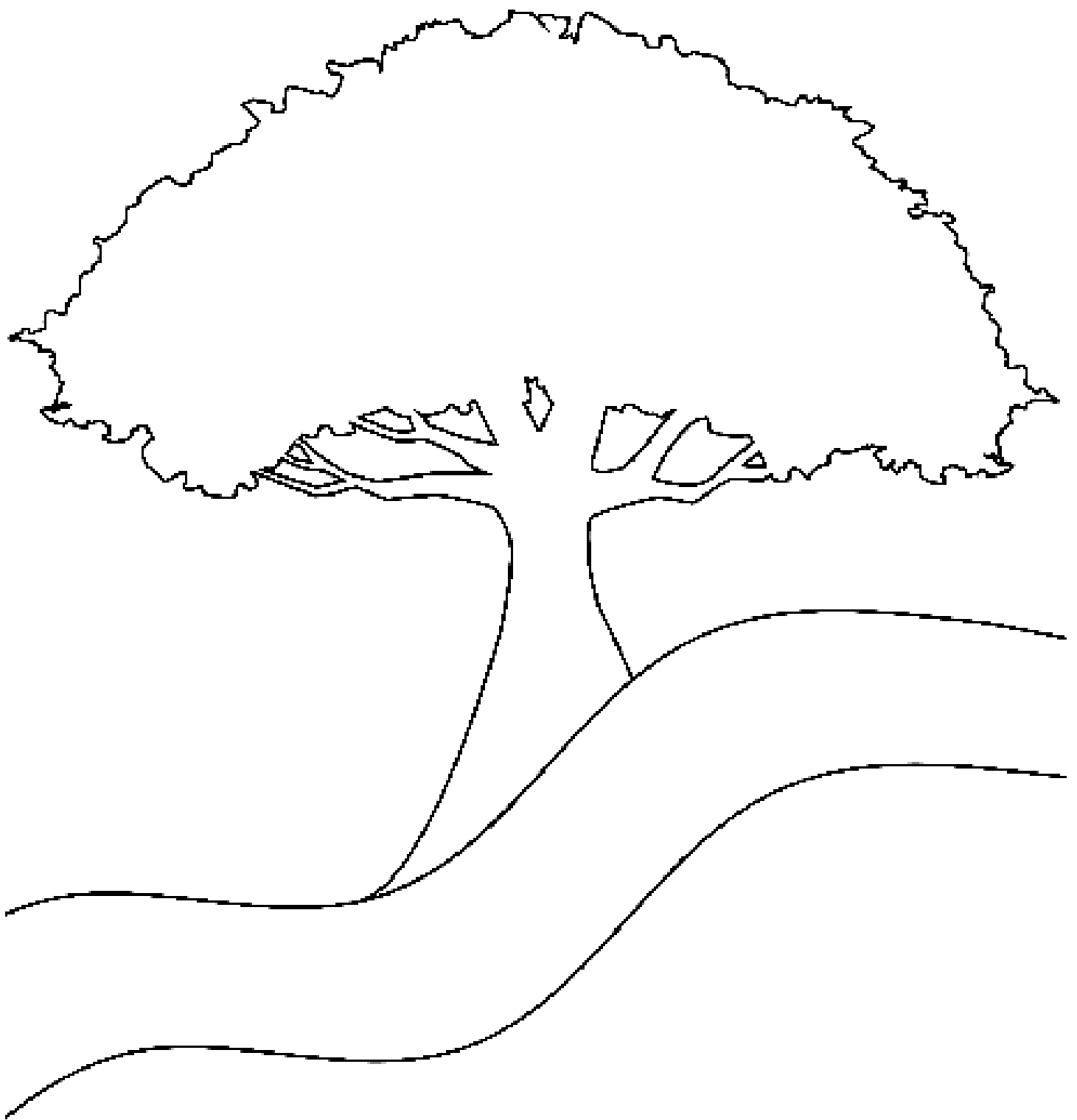
**SAMPLE PRAYER:** *"God, help us remember today's story. Please help us remember that You only have good plans for us. Thank You for loving us so much! Amen."*

### RELEASE — 5 MINUTES

If you have extra time, use the craft from RESPOND to discuss the provision of God, the protection of God, the beauty of God, and the power of God. This is a great way to extend your lesson and push your kids deeper into God's Word.







# GOD'S RULES

## BIBLE PASSAGE

Genesis 2:9, 15-17 (ICB)

## BIG IDEA

God does everything for our good.

## FOCUS VERSE

"We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love Him." Romans 8:28 (ICB)

## LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Poster Paper | Poster Markers | *Rules for Your Good* Activity Page | Pencils | Markers or Crayons |

## GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What do you like about rules? What do you dislike about rules?
- Name a rule you wish would disappear? Why do you feel that way?



THIS IS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ABOUT RULES IN GENERAL. REMIND STUDENTS THAT GOOD RULES ARE MADE TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE. YOU COULD TALK ABOUT SAFETY SIGNS (STOP SIGNS, WET FLOOR, ETC.) YOU COULD ALSO MENTION WHY YOU MIGHT HAVE CERTAIN RULES IN YOUR CLASSROOM.

## WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Before Jesus came to Earth, there was only one place to worship God. Everyone had to go to the temple [a special church] to worship. While it is still important to worship God with other Christians, we can also worship Him every day, no matter where we are! What are some places you can worship God and tell Him how amazing He is?"



THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN JESUS' DAY LIVED VERY DIFFERENT LIVES THAN WE DO. ANY TIME WE CAN SHOW THE CHILDREN HOW JESUS HAS CHANGED EVERYTHING FOR THE BETTER, WE SHOULD!

## PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather everyone in a circle to pray.

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** "God, You are amazing. We love You! Help us remember, everything we do is for You and Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen."

## REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Puzzle Piece |

**BACKGROUND:** Say, “Who remembers the name of this month’s unit? [Wait for responses.] Right! This month’s lessons are called *In the Garden*. First, we talked about how God uniquely created Adam and Eve in His image. Then, we learned that God gave Adam and Eve the Garden of Eden to be their beautiful home! He provided trees and food for them because **God does everything for our good**. I cannot wait to read the next story together, but first, will someone hang up our next puzzle piece?”

**TRANSITION:** Say, “It is time to play a game! Who knows why we play a game before reading each week’s Bible story? We play games to get our minds and bodies ready to hear God’s Word. Have you noticed that our games prepare us for the story we hear that day? By paying attention to the game, you may discover a clue about this week’s lesson.”

## ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Today, we are going to play *Tree, Snake, Human*. Who is good at following directions? Well, let’s just see about that. I will give you a series of commands [Tree, Snake, or Human] and whoever completes the series of commands last is eliminated. The last one standing at the end of all the rounds, wins! Who’s ready to test your listening skills? Here we go!”

**GAME GOAL:** To be the first child to complete the series of directions given by the leader.

### HOW TO PLAY:

- Explain to the class the actions for each of the commands. (*Tree*: Stand straight and tall with arms in the air like branches. *Snake*: Lay on the floor in a curvy snake pose. *Human*: Stand up with hands on hips.)
- To begin the game, tell the students to stand like a soldier with arms to their sides. Say, “This is what we’ll call ‘starting position.’”
- Once everyone is in “starting position,” call out a series of 3 commands. (Example of 3 Commands: Snake, Human, Tree; Tree, Snake, Human; or Human, Tree, Snake.) The kids will then complete the actions that go with each command as quickly as possible. The last child to complete the series of commands will take a seat.
- Start another round by telling the kids to get in “starting position.” Give another series of commands.
- For each of the rounds, the last child to complete the series of commands will take a seat. The last child standing at the end of all the rounds is the winner.
- Play as time allows.

**CHALLENGE:** To make things a little more challenging you can say the commands really fast or call out 5 commands at one time (Example of 5 Commands: Snake, Human, Snake, Tree, Snake; Human, Snake, Tree, Tree, Human.)



IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN WITH EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS OR PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, MODIFY THE ACTIONS FOR THEM. FOR EXAMPLE, YOU CAN MAKE A SLITHERING MOTION WITH YOUR ARM FOR SNAKE INSTEAD OF LYING ON THE FLOOR.



**TRANSITION:** Say, "To do well in that game, you had to follow my commands [rules] carefully, didn't you? In our story today, we are going to learn about following God's commands as we continue to learn from the lives of Adam and Eve. Let's read more of their story now."

## LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Today, we will learn about the time when God gave Adam and Eve an important rule. He told them to stay away from one tree in His garden. Do you remember how **God does everything for our good**? Well, God gave Adam and Eve a rule for their good when He made this rule. Let's listen so you'll see what I mean." Read Genesis 2:9, 15-17 (ICB).

**<sup>9</sup>The Lord God caused every beautiful tree and every tree that was good for food to grow out of the ground. In the middle of the garden, God put the tree that gives life. And he put there the tree that gives the knowledge of good and evil.**

**<sup>15</sup> The Lord God put the man in the garden of Eden to care for it and work it. <sup>16</sup> The Lord God commanded him, "You may eat the fruit from any tree in the garden. <sup>17</sup> But you must not eat the fruit from the tree which gives the knowledge of good and evil. If you ever eat fruit from that tree, you will die!"**

Say, "**God does everything for our good** even when it does not seem like it."



DRAW A COMPARISON TO REAL-LIFE. SAY, "PARENTS WILL TELL YOU NOT TO RUN AT THE POOL. THIS IS A GOOD RULE BECAUSE YOU COULD SLIP AND FALL. GOD'S RULES ARE ALWAYS CREATED FOR OUR GOOD; THEY KEEP US SAFE."

Ask, "What rule did God make for Adam and Eve's good? [Wait for responses.] God told Adam and Eve not to eat from one tree—the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God did not create this rule to be mean; He did it for their good. God is always working for our good, even when He gives us rules. Just like He did for Adam and Eve, God gives His followers rules. These commands are to benefit us and give us a wonderful life. We can follow God's rules without worrying because **God does everything for our good**. He is our good and kind Father who wants what is best for us always!"

## JOINING TO JESUS

"Did you know that when Jesus came to earth, He gave us God's most important rule? Jesus said the greatest rule is to love one another and love God [John 13:34-35]. He gave us this rule for our good just like the rule God gave to Adam and Eve in the garden."

**TRANSITION:** Say, "**God does everything for our good**—even His rules are kind gifts for His children."

## DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Let's talk about the story more."

**1. Who does everything for our good?**

Response: **God does everything for our good.**

**2. Why do we need God's good rules?**

Response: Good rules protect us and keep us safe.

**3. What rule did God give Adam and Eve?**

Response: God told Adam and Eve they could not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

**4. What consequence did Adam and Eve suffer for disobeying God?**

Response: Adam and Eve eventually died for their sin. They lost the opportunity to live forever in God's beautiful Garden.

**5. Why is it sometimes hard to obey God's rules?**

Response: Answers will vary.

**6. When we disobey, are we trusting that God knows best or that we know best? Explain your answer.**

Response: Answers will vary.

**7. What do we learn about God from our story?**

Response: **God does everything for our good**, God gives us rules because He loves us, God knows more than we do, God is good and kind, God wants to protect us and keep us safe, etc.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "**God does everything for our good** just like He made a good rule to protect Adam and Eve from death. Remember, **God does everything for our good.**"

**RESPOND — 10 MINUTES**

**MATERIALS:** | Poster Paper (1 per class) | Poster Markers (1 pack per class) | *Rules for Your Good* Activity Page (1 per child) | Pencils (1 per child) | Markers or Crayons |

Say, "Do you remember when God gave Adam and Eve the rule not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? Well, God gave this command because He loved Adam and Eve not because He wanted to hurt them. **God does everything for our good** because He loves us too. Let's take a few minutes to think about some rules that God created for our good."

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- As a group, brainstorm rules that have been created for our good. These rules can be from God (found in the Bible) or commands given by parents/teachers.



YOU MAY NEED TO OFFER SOME RULES TO START THE BRAINSTORMING. EXAMPLE RULES CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS NO RUNNING IN THE HALLWAY OR AS BIG AS DO NOT MURDER.

- As the children share, write the rules on the poster paper. Talk about how each one has been created for our good.
- Once you have written at least 15 rules on the poster, give everyone a *Rules for Your Good* Activity Page and have them choose three rules to write down on their *Rules for Your Good* Activity Page. (The kids can choose whether or not to use rules from the poster.)

- Once the kids have written down their rules, instruct them to draw a picture of these commands.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Would someone tell us one way we know **God does everything for our good**? [Wait for responses.] Great! I am so glad we have such a good and kind Father."

### MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "God is good and kind, and He works all things out for the good of His children! Let's practice our memory verse again this week. Who remembers the words?"

*"We know (point to head) that in everything (point to everything) God works for the good (thumbs up) of those who love Him (arms crossed across chest)." Romans 8:28 (ICB) (hold your hands out like a book)*

**CHALLENGE:** We want to teach children ways to "store" God's Word in their hearts. A great way to do this is with a technique called "building repetition." Start by saying the first word of the verse, "And." Then, start the verse over, except this time add a word: "And we." Continue this pattern, adding another word every time until you have "built" the entire verse.

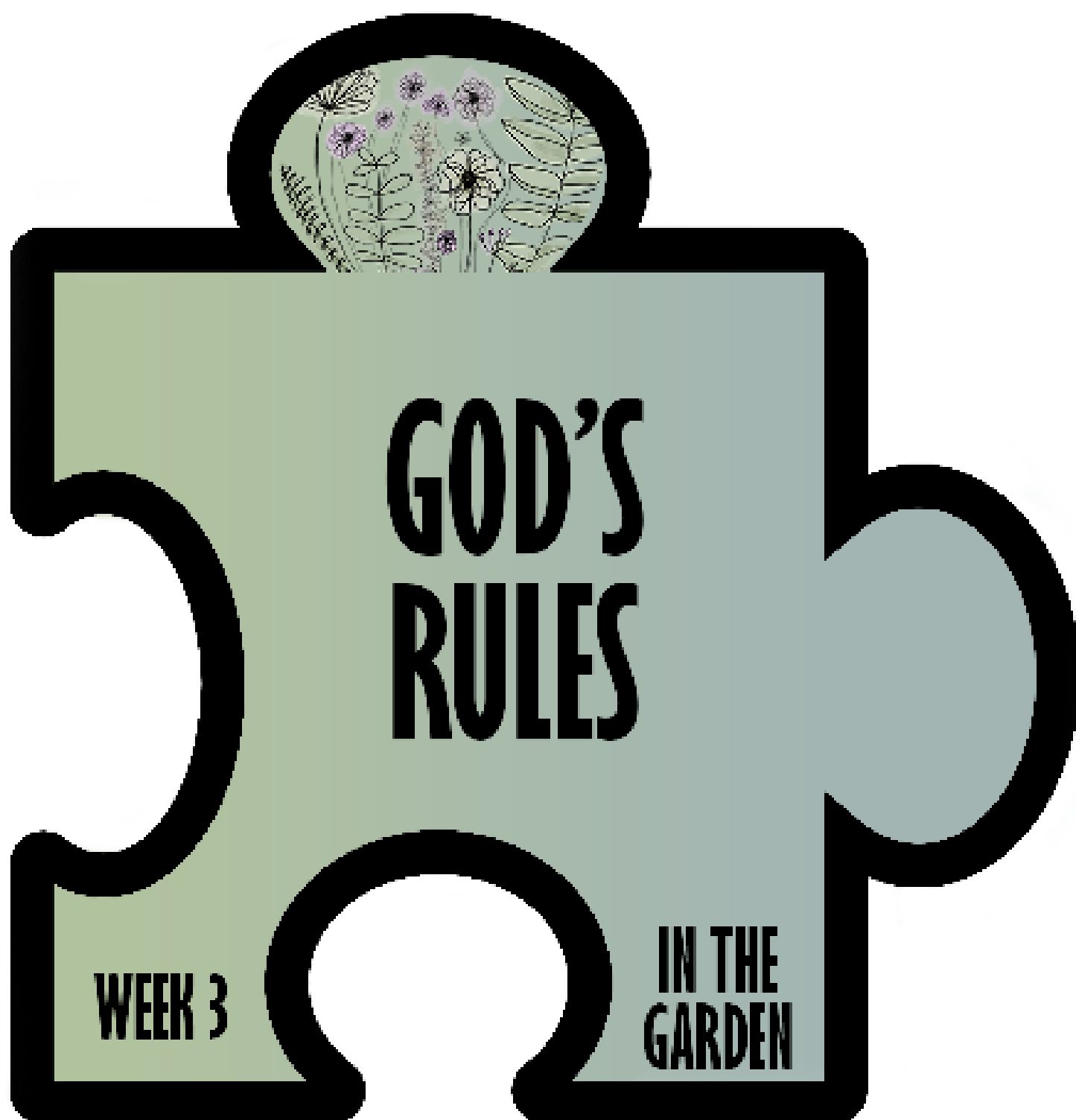
### REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "**God does everything for our good.** This means that every rule He gives is a command that shows His love for us. When God instructs us, we should listen because His rules are intended to help us. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV) reminds us we can trust God: 'Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.' Let's pray together before your parents [guardians] come."

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** *"God, we thank You for Your kindness. Thank You for being so good. We are so grateful we never have to wonder if Your plans for us are kind because we KNOW You do everything for our good. Help us remember this special truth. Amen."*

### RELEASE — 5 MINUTES

If you have time remaining, extend the lesson by discussing varying consequences that come for disobeying. Emphasize again that **God does everything for our good**—even give us rules and commands!

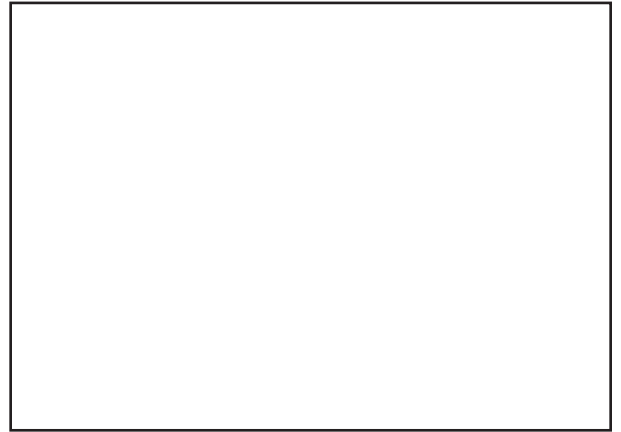


# RULES FOR YOUR GOOD

Rule #1: \_\_\_\_\_

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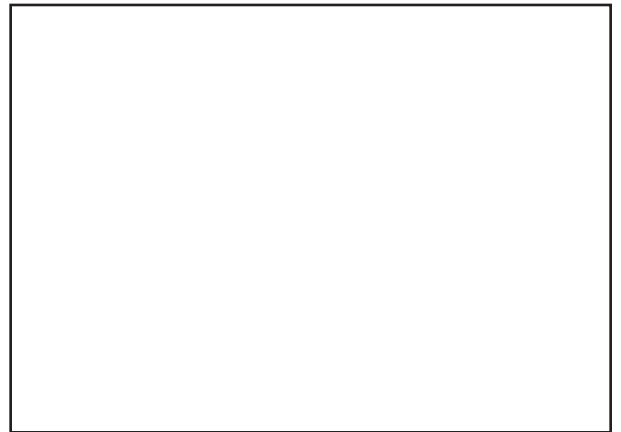
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Rule #2: \_\_\_\_\_

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Rule #3: \_\_\_\_\_

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# OUT OF THE GARDEN

## BIBLE PASSAGE

Genesis 3:6, 22-24 (ICB)

## BIG IDEA

God does everything for our good.

## FOCUS VERSE

"We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love Him." Romans 8:28 (ICB)

## LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Toothpicks of Pretzel Sticks | Mini Marshmallows | *God's Plan* Activity Page |  
Popsicle Sticks | Brown Felt | Crayons | Scissors | Glue |

## GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Have you ever been to a garden? What did you like about it?
- What is your favorite color?

## WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, "It is time for worship! Feel free to worship in a way that helps you best glorify God—you can dance, kneel, stand, or raise your hands. Let's worship God together."



LET YOUR KIDS KNOW IT IS TIME FOR WORSHIP WITH A SIGNAL OR SOUND THAT ACKNOWLEDGES IT IS TIME TO STOP WHAT THEY ARE DOING AND COME TO THE WORSHIP AREA.

## PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Enter the PRAY portion of today's lesson with excitement and expectancy, knowing God hears and answers prayers.

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** "God, we know You are great, and we are thankful you hear us when we call. You are the best teacher, so teach us today from the Scriptures. Bless our time together, in Jesus' name, Amen."

## REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Puzzle Piece |

**BACKGROUND:** Say, "This month is almost over, which means our *In the Garden* unit is almost finished too! This is also our last lesson to review our big idea that **God does everything for our good**. Remember,

we learned that God made Adam and Eve different from every other part of creation because they were made in His image. Then, in the second week, we talked about God creating a good and beautiful garden for Adam and Eve. God had their good in mind when He made such a wonderful place for them. Finally, last week, we discovered that God gave one important rule to Adam and Eve, but the rule was not to hurt or frustrate them. The rule was to protect them because **God does everything for our good**. Today, we are going to take a look at one last story about Adam and Eve to find evidence of God's good plans for His children." Hang up today's puzzle piece.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Before we begin our lesson, let's play a game."

## ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

**MATERIALS:** | Toothpicks or Pretzel Sticks (40 per team) | Mini Marshmallows (50 per team) |



BEFORE EXPLAINING ANYTHING, TELL THE CLASS THAT THE PRETZEL STICKS AND MARSHMALLOWS ARE NOT FOR EATING. SINCE THIS IS A TEAM GAME, IT'S BEST NOT TO EAT SHARED FOOD. YOU MAY CHOOSE TO PROVIDE A SNACK AFTER THE ACTIVITY.

Say, "For our game, we will be building something as a team. Do you want to know what you will be creating? You will be building a tree. Let's listen closely to find out how you will do it."

**GAME GOAL:** To work as a team to make a tree out of toothpicks and mini marshmallows.

### HOW TO PLAY:

- Divide your class into teams of three people and give each group forty toothpicks and fifty mini marshmallows.
- Explain that each team will need to make a tree that stands on its own, and they can only use the toothpicks and mini marshmallows to accomplish their task.
- Give everyone five to seven minutes to make a tree.

**MODIFICATION:** If the kids in your class do not work well together, modify the game to be an individual task.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Your trees look great! Now, we are going to learn about two special trees from God's Word—the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil."

## LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Last week, God gave Adam and Eve one rule—do not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. This week, we will talk about what happened after God gives Adam and Eve that rule. Remember, as I read, **God does everything for our good**, even when we don't deserve it." Read Genesis 3:6-7, 21-24 (ICB).

**<sup>6</sup> The woman saw that the tree [of the knowledge of good and evil] was beautiful. She saw that its fruit was good to eat and that it would make her wise. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She also gave some of the fruit to her husband who was with her, and he ate it.**

<sup>7</sup> Then, it was as if the man's and the woman's eyes were opened. They realized they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made something to cover themselves.

<sup>21</sup> The Lord God made clothes from animal skins for the man and his wife. And so the Lord dressed them. <sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God said, "Look, the man has become like one of us. He knows good and evil. And now we must keep him from eating some of the fruit from the tree of life. If he does, he will live forever." <sup>23</sup> So the Lord God forced the man out of the garden of Eden. He had to work the ground he was taken from. <sup>24</sup> God forced the man out of the garden. Then God put angels on the east side of the garden. He also put a sword of fire there. It flashed around in every direction. This kept people from getting to the tree of life.

Say, "**God does everything for our good** even when it does not seem like it. In the Bible verses we just read, we see that Adam and Eve messed up big time. Adam and Eve sinned against God when they ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. (Explain that "to sin" means "to disobey God.") They disobeyed God. They caused sin to enter the world, but God still took care of them. In verse 21 we read that God covered Adam and Eve with animal skins. He gave them clothes and took care of them, even when they didn't deserve it.

## JOINING TO JESUS

Say, "Hebrews 9:22 tells us that 'without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.' When God dressed Adam and Eve in animal skin, we know that God had to sacrifice [shed the blood of] the animal first. So even in the moments right after sin entered the world, God had a plan. God used that sacrifice to cover the shame of Adam and Eve. But that wouldn't cover all people for all time. God's ultimate plan included Jesus. He sent Jesus to be the ultimate sacrifice for all of our sins. For yours and for mine. Jesus' blood was shed to cover our shame and so we could be forgiven."

In verse 22 we read that God kicked Adam and Eve out of the garden He created for them! Why would God do that? It doesn't sound like God is working for the good of Adam and Eve, does it? God did not make them leave the garden to be mean. He did it for their good because **God does everything for our good**. Man was broken now, and God didn't want Adam and Eve looking to the Tree of Life [garden] to fix them [restore them or give them life]. Only God could do that. God also knew that if Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the Tree of Life they would live a very long time full of heartache and suffering [verse 22]. So, God sent them away and protected His Garden – He protected it with an angel. It may seem mean, but we know that **God does everything for our good**."



USE THIS TIME TO ALLOW THE KIDS TO RESPOND TO THE STORY. MAKE SURE THEY KNOW THAT GOD DOES EVERYTHING FOR OUR GOOD EVEN WHEN WE DO WRONG. EVEN WHEN WE ARE BAD. REMIND THE KIDS THAT WE ALL DO WRONG; WE ALL SIN [ROMANS 3:23]. BUT WE CAN ALL ACCEPT THE FORGIVENESS GOD GIVES US THROUGH JESUS.



**DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES**

Say, "Time to discuss what we just learned."

**1. Who does everything for our good?**

Response: **God does everything for our good.**

**2. What was the only rule in the garden?**

Response: The only rule was not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

**3. Did God hate Adam and Eve after they sinned?**

Response: No, even though they had to leave the Garden, God continued to love and take care of His people. He also continues to love and take of us even after we disobey.

**4. What did God do for Adam and Eve after He found them in the garden after they disobeyed?**

Response: He dressed them with animal skin.

**5. What good plan did God have for His people?**

Response: Even when Adam and Eve sinned and had to leave the Garden, God was making a plan to send His Son Jesus to save us and to forgive us of our sins.

**6. What do we learn about God from our story?**

Response: **God does everything for our good**, God is always ready to help us, God's greatest gift is Jesus, God loves us, God is good, etc.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Remember, **God does everything for our good.**"

**RESPOND — 10 MINUTES**

**MATERIALS:** | *God's Plan* Activity Page (1 per child) | Popsicle Sticks (3 per child) | Brown Felt (1 per child) | Crayons | Scissors | Glue |

Say, "For our craft today, we are going to make paper puppets to remind us of God's kindness to Adam and Eve. Even though Adam and Eve could not be in the Garden with God anymore, God had a plan to cover them and help them. God worked for Adam and Eve's good, and **God does everything for our good** too."



BEFORE CLASS, COPY *GOD'S PLAN* ACTIVITY PAGE ON CARDSTOCK, THEN CUT IT IN HALF ALONG THE SOLID LINE. EACH CHILD SHOULD HAVE 1 ADAM, EVE & CROSS SET TO COLOR. ALSO, CUT THE BROWN FELT INTO 4"X4" PIECES. BE SURE TO HAVE ONE PIECE PER CHILD.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Give the children a half-sheet of *God's Plan* Activity Page, popsicle sticks, brown felt.
- Have kids color Adam, Eve and the Cross.
- Help the kids cut out the 3 images and glue them to the popsicle sticks.
- Next, show the kids how to cut out pieces of the brown felt and glue it on Adam and Eve as the animal skin clothing.
- When the kids have finished their puppets, have them practice retelling today's Bible story using the puppets. Encourage them to highlight that even though they didn't deserve it, God covered and cared for Adam and Eve. And even from the beginning, God had a plan to cover and forgive all of us. God's plan was Jesus on the cross.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "God made Adam and Eve leave His garden when they sinned. They're relationship with God was broken. However, we know that **God does everything for our good**. So He sent Jesus, who never sinned, to become sin for us and die on the cross for us so we could be made right with God (2 Corinthians 5:21).

### MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "If we know that **God does everything for our good**, we can show Him we believe this truth by memorizing His Word. This is the last week we will practice our Romans 8:28 verse. Can we say it together?"

*"We know (point to head) that in everything (point to everything) God works for the good (thumbs up) of those who love Him (arms crossed across chest)." Romans 8:28 (ICB) (hold your hands out like a book)*

**CHALLENGE:** Since this is the final week, divide the kids into groups with one adult per group. Each group will put the verse to music. You can use popular tunes to popular songs like *Jesus Loves Me* or *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*.

### REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "**God does everything for our good**. Even when He forced Adam and Eve out of the Garden, God had a plan. I want this story to help you remember that **God does everything for our good**." Pray for the needs of your group before closing your time together.

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** *"God, thank You for being good to us. Please help us know You a little better and love You a little more deeply each time we hear from Your Word. Remind us that You are working for our good. Amen."*

### RELEASE —

If you have extra time, continue practicing the memory verse so the children can share it with their parents/guardians.

