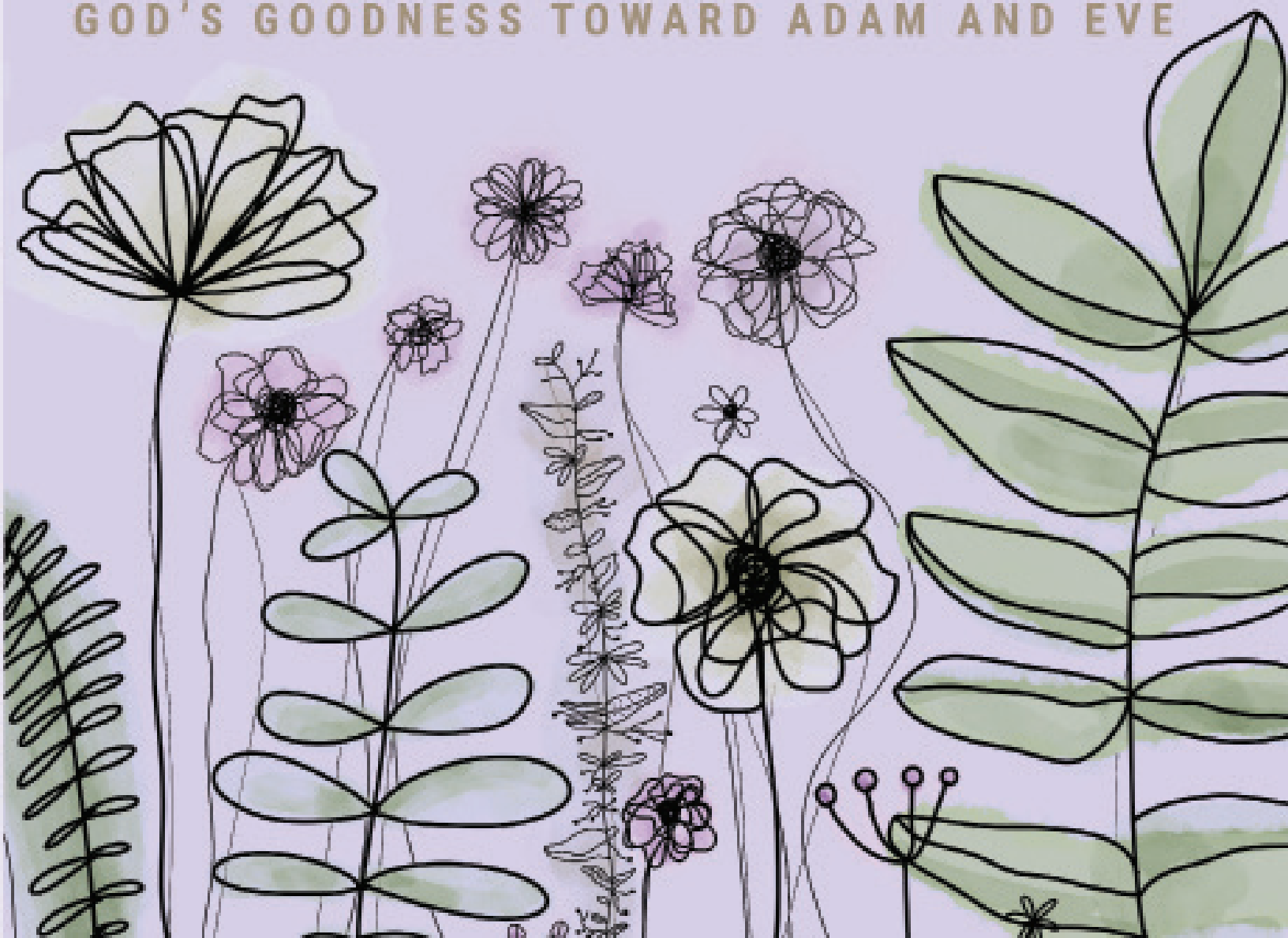


IN THE GARDEN

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 | *Likeness* Activity Pages | 8" Paper Plates | Aluminum Foil Sheets | Jumbo Popsicle Sticks | Glue | Stickers (Optional) | Pom Poms (Optional) | Markers |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What are some things you are good at? (For example, "Are you good at art? Are you good at playing a sport?")
- Do you look like anyone from your family? (or, "Do you look like anyone you know?" if a non-family member is raising the child.)

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.



THIS METHOD OF WORSHIP MAY BE UNFAMILIAR TO YOUR KIDS. MODEL WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO KNEEL BEFORE GOD AND THEN HAVE THE KIDS PRACTICE KNEELING WITH YOU.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Pray over your kids before starting class.

SAMPLE PRAYER: "God, please speak to us today. Teach us to listen for Your voice. Help us to know You more through the Bible. In Jesus' name, Amen."

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “Today starts a brand-new month which means we have brand-new lessons. We are calling these lessons, *In the Garden*. Where in the Bible do we hear about a garden? Right! In the very beginning, God made a garden for His people—Adam and Eve. This is where we are starting today—at the very beginning of the Bible! The Bible says, ‘In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth’ [Genesis 1:1]. Before He made the first person, He made our world! Let’s begin our new lessons at the very beginning!” Put up the first puzzle piece.

TRANSITION: Say, “Before we read from God’s Word, let’s play a game.”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Likeness Activity Pages* (1 set per class) |

Say, “Today, we are going to look at some images or pictures! Images and pictures are not the real things, but they are like the real thing! [For example, a picture of a ball is great, but the picture is not actually a ball you can throw around with friends. A picture of a friend is great, but having the real friend with you is way better.] We will look at images [or pictures] for this game, and then we’ll talk about what makes them the same. Who’s ready? Let’s play it together!”



BEFORE CLASS, PRINT OUT THE *LIKENESS* 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.

GAME GOAL: To study two similar images side-by-side and describe what makes the two images the same (or alike).

HOW TO PLAY:

- Starting with the first picture, show the class the first set of images. (Let everyone examine the image for ten seconds before calling on anyone.)
- Say, “Who can tell me what makes these images alike [or the same]?” Ask individual children, one at a time, to tell the class what makes the images similar.



YOU MAY NEED TO MODEL THE FIRST COUPLE OF SIMILARITIES TO HELP THE CLASS KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN THE PICTURES. FOR EXAMPLE, “I SEE THAT BOTH IMAGES HAVE THE COLOR GREEN IN THEM. DO YOU SEE THAT?” OR “IN THE FIRST IMAGE, I SEE A CLOCK, AND IN THE SECOND IMAGE, I SEE A CLOCK TOO! WOW, THEY MATCH!”

- The class will work together to find at least four similarities between the two images. After each set, congratulate the kids on their work and remind them that the pictures are not identical, but they are similar. For example, you can say: “Great job! We found lots of the same things in these images, but is everything in these images the same? No! They are similar but different. Let’s do the next ones!”
- Continue this process with remaining *Likeness Activity Pages* (or as time allows).

MODIFICATION: If you want an active element to this game, before a student offers an answer, have the child do a specific action like jumping up and down, spinning in a circle, or making a shape with their body. If this engaging element is a distraction, change it to a whole class activity! For example, after a similarity is named, have the entire class do five jumping jacks, squats, or lunges.

TRANSITION: Say, “Did you like the game? Yay! I did too! We looked at similar [or alike] images because today we will be talking about GOD’s image!”

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, “God made *everything*—the world, sun, moon, sky, water, animals, plants, trees, and the first people—Adam and Eve! God made Adam and Eve very special. Let’s see how special God created Adam and Eve.” Read Genesis 1:26-27 (ICB).



WHILE TELLING THE STORY ABOUT THE CREATION OF ADAM AND EVE, IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO HAVE THE CHILDREN ACT OUT THE SCENE. (FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE ONE CHILD PRETEND TO SCOOP UP DUST AND BREATHE ON IT. YOU COULD ALSO HAVE “ADAM” AND “EVE” START BY LYING ON THE GROUND AND THEN “WAKE” UP AT THE DESIGNATED MOMENTS.)

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.

Read Genesis 2:7, 22 (ICB).

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.

Ask, “*What was special about how God created Adam and Eve?* God created Adam and Eve in His image. That means He made them like Himself, different from every other living thing on earth. God made people from the ground and gave them breath. [Have the children take a deep breath in and out.] No animal, bird, fish, or plant has ever been created like people. Just like Adam and Eve, we are God’s special creation! God created us in His image, and **God does everything for our good**. We know this because the Bible tells us **God does everything for our good** [Romans 8:28].”



THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO EMPHASIZE THAT GOD CREATED EACH PERSON UNIQUELY AND PURPOSEFULLY. GOD LOVES US AND HE NEVER MAKES MISTAKES.

JOINING TO JESUS

When Jesus was sent to earth, God created Him in His perfect image. Jesus is the only perfect person to live. Jesus came to show us God's perfect image."

TRANSITION: Say, "We have been created to be like God, but we are not actually God. Remember how our pictures in the last activity were similar, but not the same? That's how God made us. Something else I want you to remember is that **God does everything for our good!** That means He made us like Himself for our good too. Let's make sure we understand what it means to be 'made in the image of God.'"

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 you think we played the game with all of the pictures?

Response: Answers will vary; however, emphasize that we found the things that were alike on the pictures to reinforce how God created us in His image. We are not Him, but we are made to be like Him.

3. From what did God make Adam? What about Eve?

Response: God created Adam from dust and breathed life into him. God created Eve from the rib (or bone) of Adam. (Have the children feel their ribs.)

4. How are Adam and Eve (and all people) different from everything else God created?

Response: We are created in God's image. (He made us similar to Himself.)

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 perfect. (He doesn't sin or make mistakes. We see this exhibited in Jesus, the only perfect human.) God is also all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present. We are none of those things.

6. How are we similar (or like) God?

Response: Examples include: We have friends, create (or make beautiful things), and help take care of His Earth.

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

Response: Answers will vary.

8. 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.** It was for our good that God created us in His image. God is good to us, isn't He?"

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 |

Say, "**God does everything for our good!** He created us in His likeness 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, and glue. 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, help 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.** What good news! 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. Pay attention to the words." Read the verse twice, then have everyone join you for the third and fourth times. Finally, have the kids recite it to a partner. (As always, be a partner with a child if needed.)

"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. Name an exciting way God made you in His image. (If this question is too difficult for the children, give them prompts like, "He made you to have friends and know how to love people. He also made people to create beautiful things like art and music.")

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "**God does everything for our good**—like creating us! Because God made us in His image, we can know Him. We can be friends with God! Isn't that amazing? None of God's creations are as special as people! Let's talk to God now."

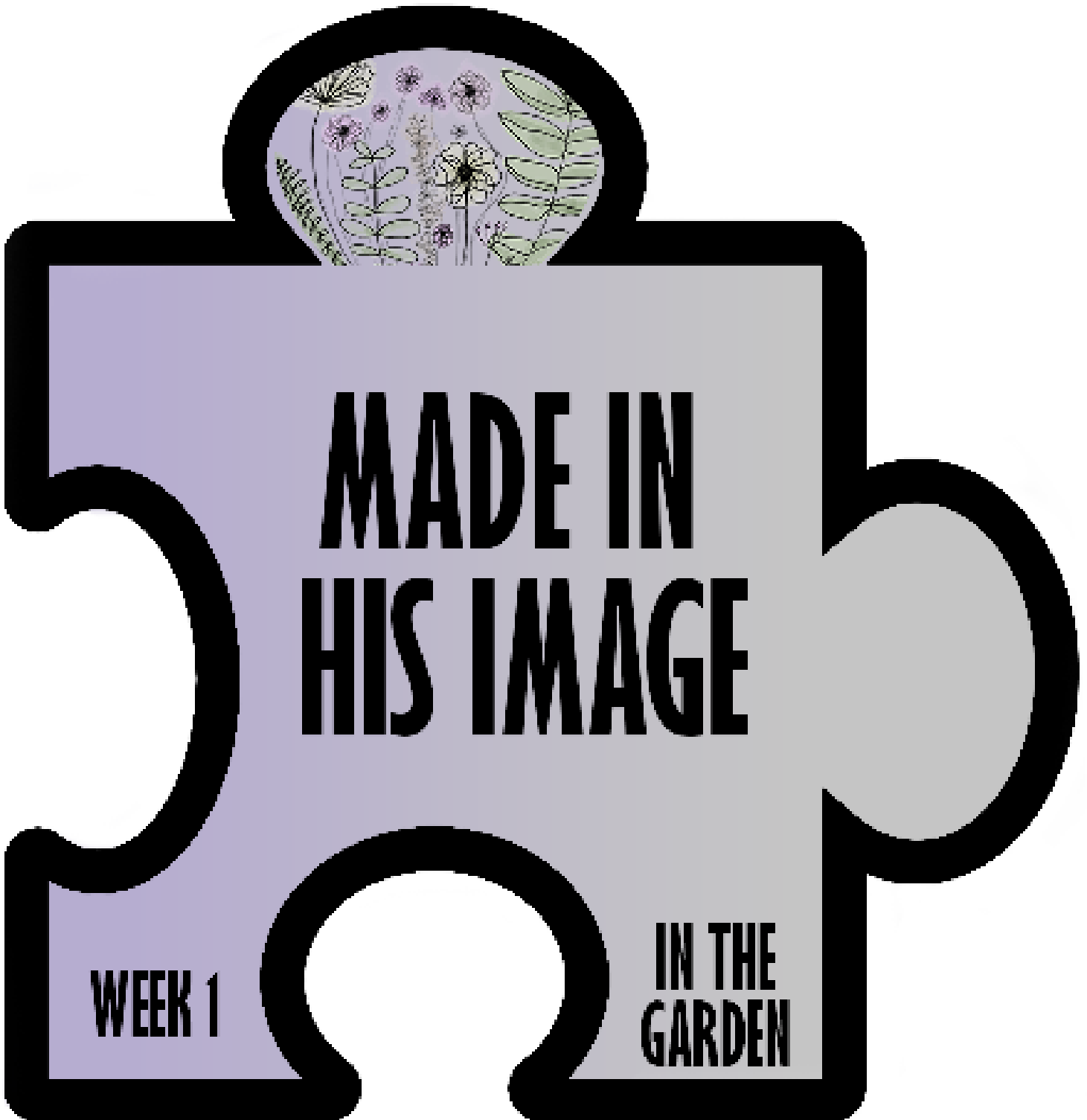


ENCOURAGE EACH CHILD TO PRAY. KIDS NEED TO START PRACTICING PRAYER WHEN THEY ARE YOUNG. AS TEACHERS, YOU ARE TRAINING LITTLE DISCIPLES TO KNOW HOW TO TALK WITH

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“God, thank You for creating us in Your image. You must love us so much! Help us know how to be good friends with You. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”*

RELEASE — 5 MINUTES

If you did not get through the ENGAGE game, play again 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, give a parent guide to every parent/guardian when they pick up their child.











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 | *My Garden Patterns* Activity Page | *My Garden Cards* Activity Page | *In His Garden* Activity Page | Large Sequins | Blue Yarn | Glue Sticks | Crayons | Other Art Supplies | Pictures of Gardens |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What job would you like to have when you grow up?
- When you help out at home, what type of work do you like? What work do you not enjoy? Why? (Examples may include cleaning your room, picking up toys, 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, so select music with lyrics that glorify God. To coordinate with this month's theme, include songs like “Sing” by Ellie Holcomb or “Made for This” by Group Publishing. (Both songs can be found on YouTube.)

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Pray before beginning the lesson.

SAMPLE PRAYER: “God, You are amazing! Help us learn more about You in today's story. Will You give us a new understanding and new love of the Bible? Thank You, Lord. Amen.”

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “Last week, we started new lessons called *In the Garden*. We learned that God created Adam and Eve in His own image. We are God's special creation because He made us to be like

Himself! That is one of the ways we know God does everything for our good. Now, we get to hear another story about how God always works everything for our good!" Post the next puzzle piece.



USE THE PUZZLE PIECES TO SHOW HOW ALL THE STORIES OF THE BIBLE CONNECT. THE BIBLE TELLS ONE BIG STORY ABOUT GOD!

TRANSITION: Say, "You know what time it is. It is game time!"

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *My Garden Patterns* Activity Page (1 per class) | *My Garden Cards* Activity Page (1 per child) |

Say, "Today, we are playing a game I like to call *Create my Garden!* You will try to be the first person to create my garden. Do you think you can do it? Great! Let's play."

GAME GOAL: To be the fastest person to build a "garden" that matches the one shown.



BEFORE CLASS, CUT THE *MY GARDEN CARDS* ACTIVITY PAGES ON THE SOLID LINE TO CREATE A SET OF 6 OF *MY GARDEN CARDS* FOR EACH CHILD.

HOW TO PLAY:

- Have everyone sit on the ground (side-by-side) in a straight line facing the teacher.
- Explain that you will show everyone a garden pattern. Each child's job is to create the garden you show in the picture faster than anyone else.
- Once the rules have been explained, have another leader model a round before you begin.
- Then, give each child a set of the *My Garden Cards*. Next, show the first *My Garden Pattern* to the class and have the children begin making their garden to match the example. (They can lay their garden cards on the floor in front of themselves.)
- The round ends when someone perfectly uses their *My Garden Cards* to match the model garden.
- Finally, have everyone clear their plants in front of them and start a new round with the next *My Garden Pattern*.

CHALLENGE: If you run out of *My Garden Patterns*, turn the page clockwise one or two rotations and have the kids create that new garden design with their *My Garden Cards*.

TRANSITION: Say, "How did you do at creating someone else's garden? Was it easy or hard? Well, get ready to hear about a special garden—God's garden that He made for Adam and Eve!"

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, "When God created people, He put them in an extraordinary home. This home was not a house or a building but a perfect, beautiful garden. It was the best home Adam and Eve could ever want! Let's read why." Read Genesis 2:8-10, 15 (ICB).

⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ A river flowed through Eden and watered the garden. From that point the river was divided. It had four streams flowing into it.

¹⁵ 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’s good?”

Ask, “What was in God’s garden? God’s Garden of Eden had more than just flowers. God gave Adam and Eve a garden with trees full of food! He also put a river in the garden to provide Adam and Eve with water. He gave them everything they would ever need. [God is called *Jehovah Jireh*—the Lord will provide.] He did this for Adam and Eve’s good! Did you know that **God does everything for our good** too? God still gives His people everything we need, just like He did for Adam and Eve. This is wonderful news!”

JOINING TO JESUS

“We do not live in God’s perfect garden now, but one day we will live in an even better place: Heaven! In John 14:3 Jesus told His disciples that He was going to prepare a new home for them. This new home is for all Christians, including us!”

TRANSITION: Say, “**God does everything for our good.** He made a garden for Adam and Eve’s good, and He takes care of us too. I am so thankful!”

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 Adam and Eve?

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

4. What did God put in His garden for Adam and Eve to enjoy?

Response: In the Garden, God placed beautiful trees, plants for food, and a river for water.

5. How did God take care of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? How does God take care of you?

Response: Answers will vary

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

Response: **God does everything for our good**, God gives us everything we need, God gives us a beautiful world to enjoy, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "Remember, **God does everything for our good**, just like when 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, "I see so many beautiful gardens. God loved Adam and Eve so much that He made them a beautiful garden. He did this because 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: Drawing the memory verse can help the children remember it. Pass out blank paper and crayons and have the kids draw a picture about this month's Scripture passage.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "God worked for Adam and Eve's good by putting them in His beautiful garden with delicious food and water. I hope you remember that **God does everything for our good** too. God can never do anything bad because the Bible says that God is only good [Mark 10:18]! Let's thank God for being so good."

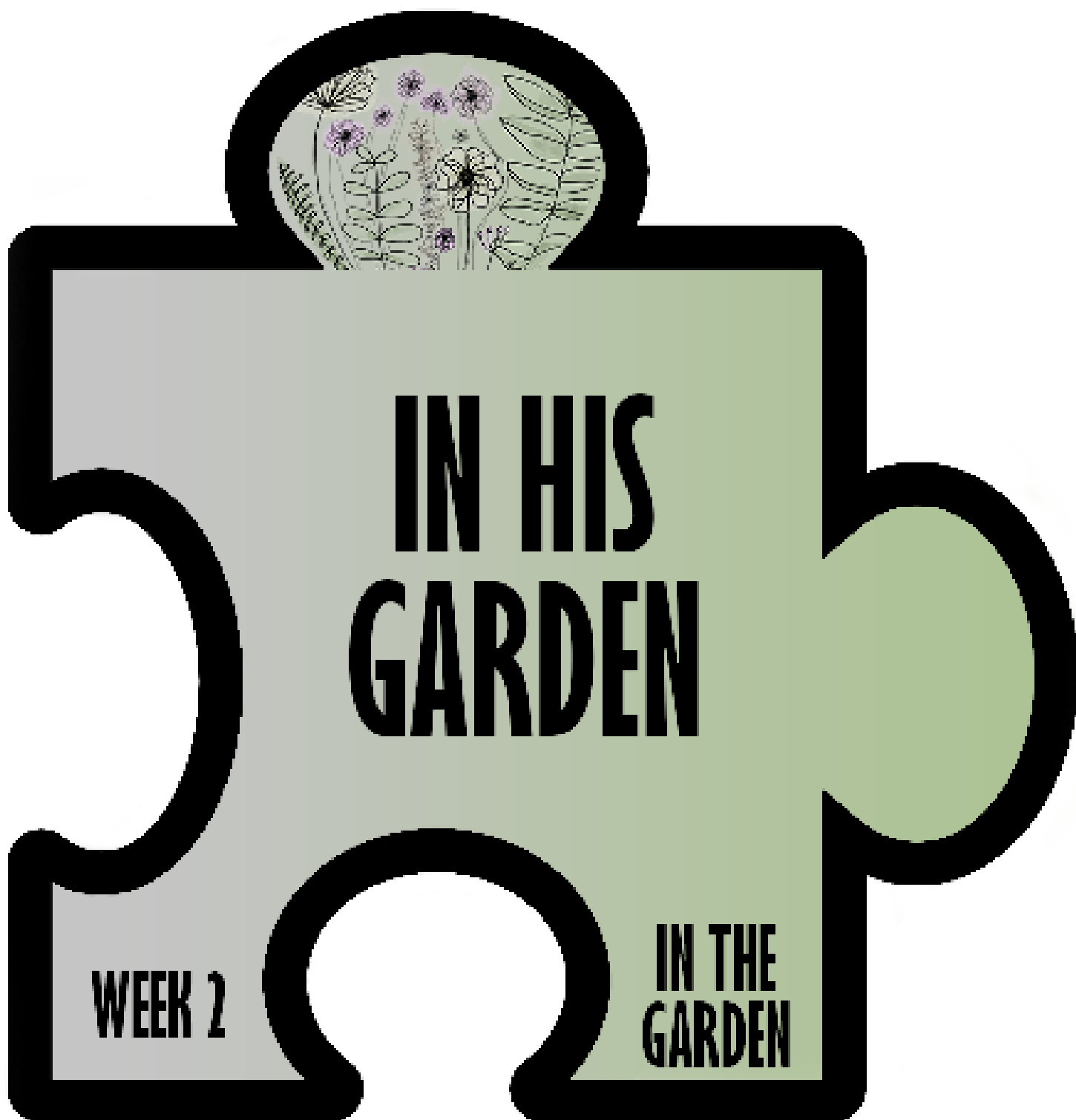
SAMPLE PRAYER: "God, help us remember that You only have good plans for us. You always want what is best, and You take better care of us than anyone else could. Thank You for loving us and for being such a good God! Amen."

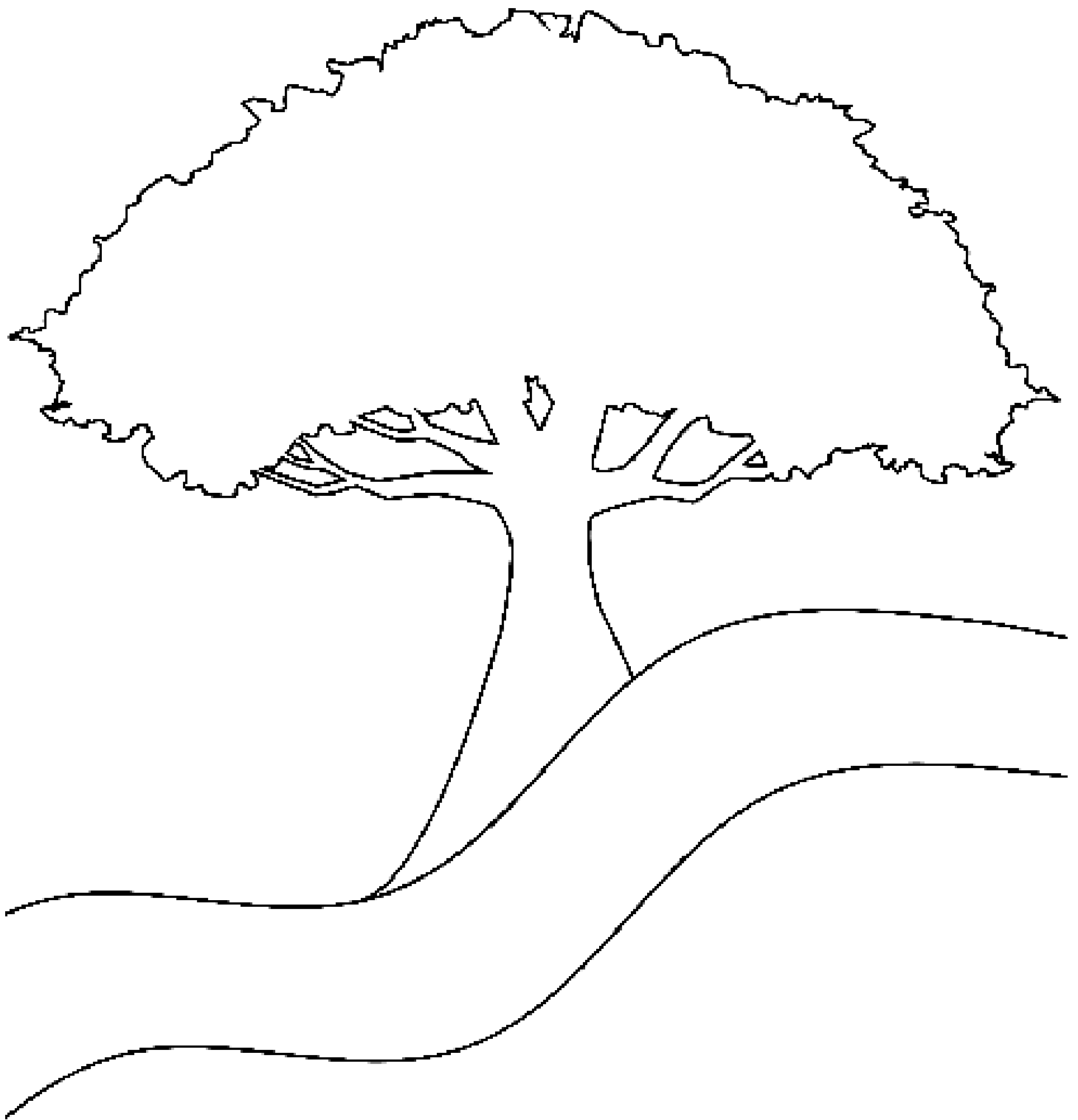


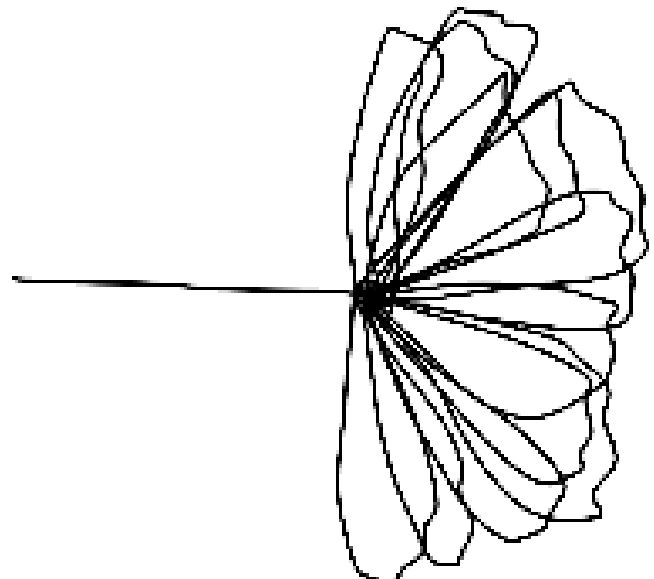
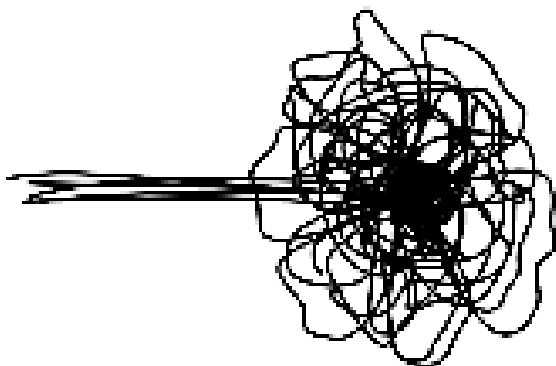
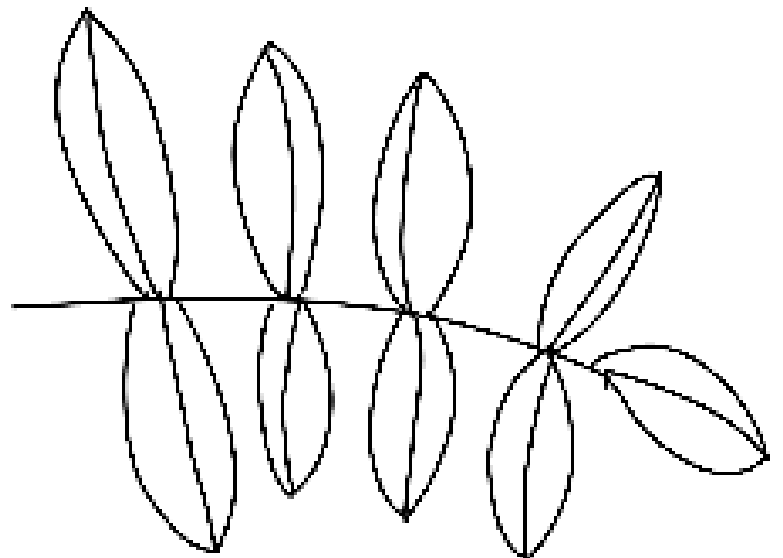
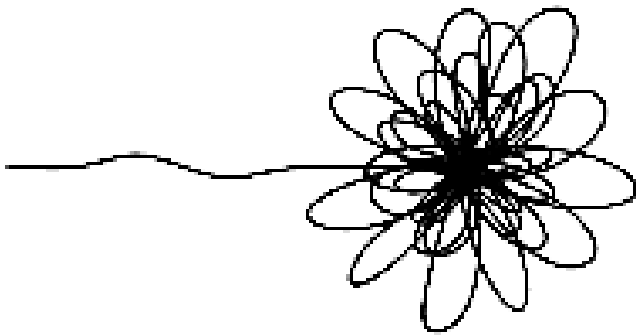
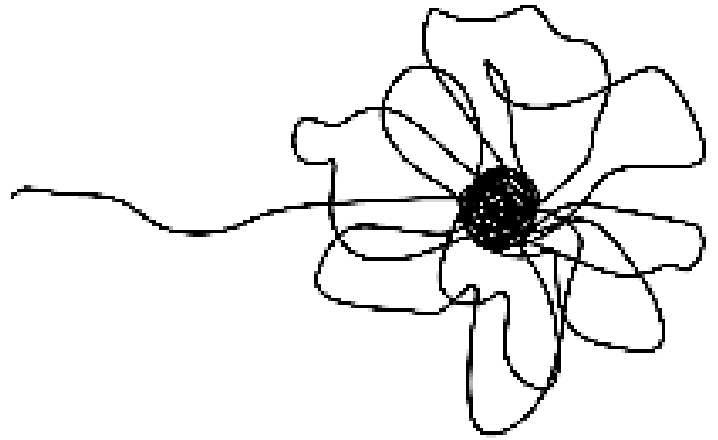
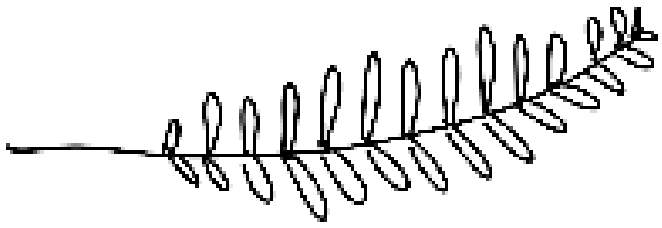
YOUR JOB IS TO TEACH YOUR KIDS ABOUT GOD AND EQUIP THEM FOR MINISTRY (EPHESIANS 4:12). THIS INCLUDES TEACHING YOUR KIDS HOW TO PRAY. IF CHILDREN NEVER PRACTICE PRAYER, THEY WILL BE LESS LIKELY TO PRAY AS AN ADULT.

RELEASE — 5 MINUTES

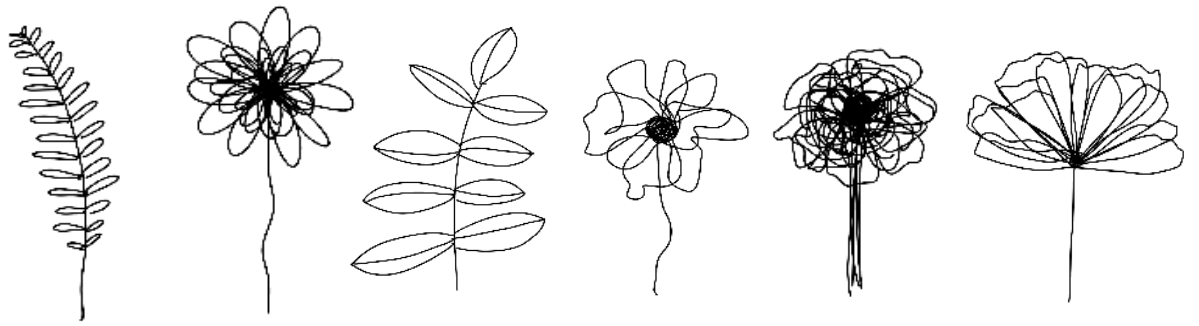
If you have extra time, use the craft from RESPOND to discuss the provision of God, the protection of God, the beauty of God, and the power of God. This is a great way to extend your lesson and push your kids deeper into God's Word.



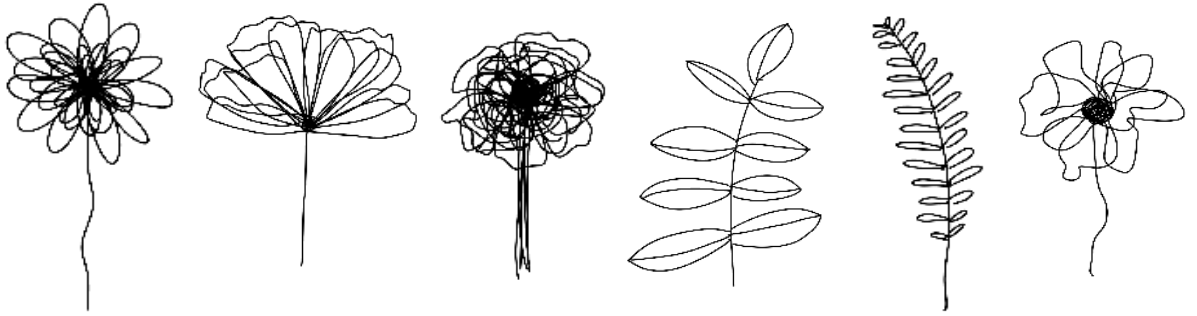




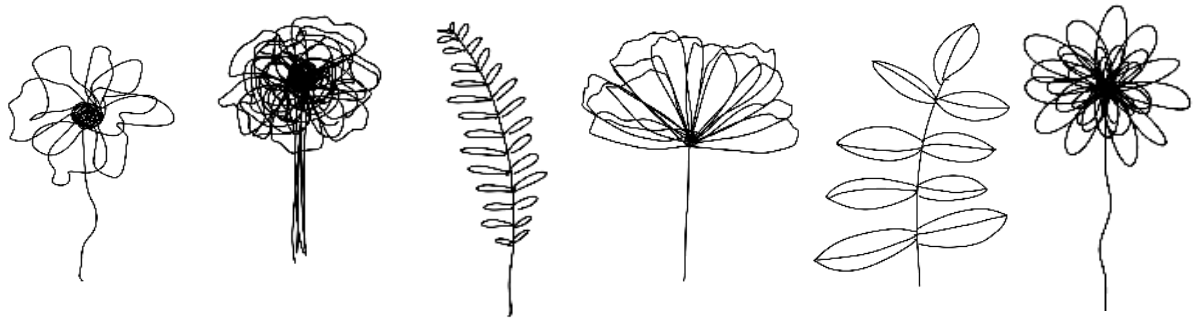
Pattern #1



Pattern #2



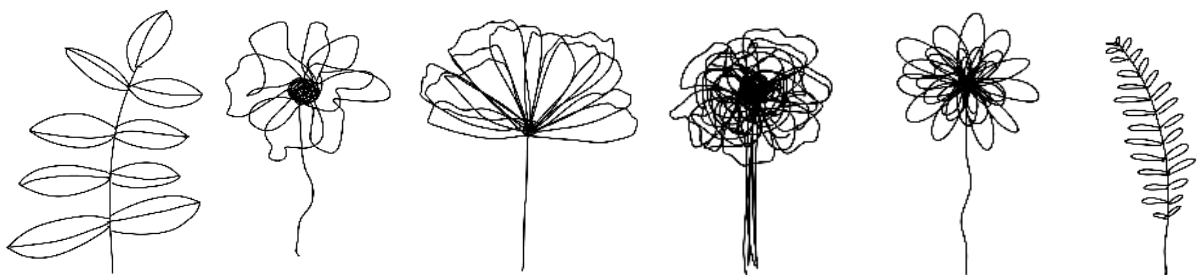
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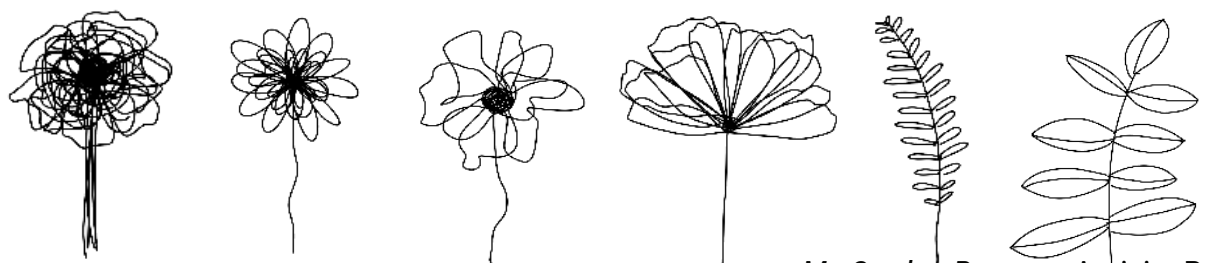
Pattern #4



Pattern #5



Pattern #6



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 | *Do Not Eat From the Tree* Activity Page | Crayons |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What rules do you have in school or daycare? What rules do you have where you live?
- Is there a rule you wish could change? (If needed, give examples such as "Do you wish you could change the rule about your bedtime?")
- Can you think of a rule that keeps you safe?



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 a special church [called a temple] 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 great and perfect [this means He doesn't make mistakes]. We love You! Help us remember that everything we do is because of You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES**MATERIALS:** | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “This month’s lessons are called *In the Garden*. Who can tell me what garden we are talking about? [Wait for responses.] Right! We are reading about God’s garden—the Garden of Eden. First, we learned that Adam and Eve were created in God’s image. Then, we heard 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**. Before we read our next story, will someone hang up this week’s puzzle piece?”

TRANSITION: Say, “Did you know that we play games to get our minds and bodies ready to hear God’s Word? You may discover [find out] a clue or secret about this week’s Bible story by paying attention to the game. See if you can find it!”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Today, we are going to play *Simon Says: Tree, Snake, Human*. Who is good at following directions? We’ll play this game a lot like the regular *Simon Says*, but I’ll give you one of 3 different commands (directions). Each command has a specific action that you’ll do. Let’s give it a try. Here we go!”

GAME GOAL: To follow the teacher’s commands (directions) only when he says “Simon Says.”

HOW TO PLAY:

- Explain and demonstrate 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,” begin your game of *Simon Says: Tree, Snake, Human* by calling out a command. (Example Commands: “Simon says, be a snake.” “Simon says, be a tree.” “Be a human.”)
- The kids will then complete the actions that go with each command as quickly as possible only if you started the command with “Simon Says.” Just like in regular *Simon Says*, the kids have to sit down if they do the action and you didn’t start the command with “Simon Says” or if they didn’t do the action when you did start the command with “Simon Says.”
- Start another round by telling the kids to get in “starting position.” Give another command.
- The last child standing at the end of all the rounds is the winner.
- Play as time allows.



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).

⁹The 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.

¹⁵ The Lord God put the man in the garden of Eden to care for it and work it. ¹⁶ The Lord God commanded him, "You may eat the fruit from any tree in the garden. ¹⁷ 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. That tree had a big name: the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God did not create this rule to be mean; instead, He was protecting Adam and Eve. We know God's rule was good because God does everything for our good! Even God's rules are good!"

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 us."

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. Are God's rules ever mean?

Response: No! God only has rules for our good. Rules exist to help us.

4. What rule did God give to Adam and Eve?

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

5. What rules are hard for you to follow?

Response: Answers will vary

6. 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. Remember, **God does everything for our good.**”

RESPOND — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Do Not Eat from the Tree* Activity Page (1 per child) | 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 rule because He loved Adam and Eve [not because He wanted to hurt them or be mean]. **God does everything for our good** because He loves us too.”

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Give everyone a *Do Not Eat from the Tree* Activity Page and crayons.
- The kids will color the tree on the *Do Not Eat from the Tree* Activity Page.
- On the other half of the page, help the children write a rule they are supposed to obey that keeps them safe. (Provide examples if the children are having a hard time thinking of a rule: wearing a seatbelt in a car, wearing a helmet with their bike, looking both ways when they cross the street, etc.)
- Allow the kids to draw and color a picture to illustrate that rule.



AS THE KIDS COLOR, CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THAT GOD ONLY MAKES RULES FOR OUR GOOD!

TRANSITION: Say, “**God does everything for our good!** Aren’t you thankful?”

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, “God is good and kind, and He works all things out for our good! **God does everything for our good.** Let’s practice our memory verse again this week. Does anyone remember 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.

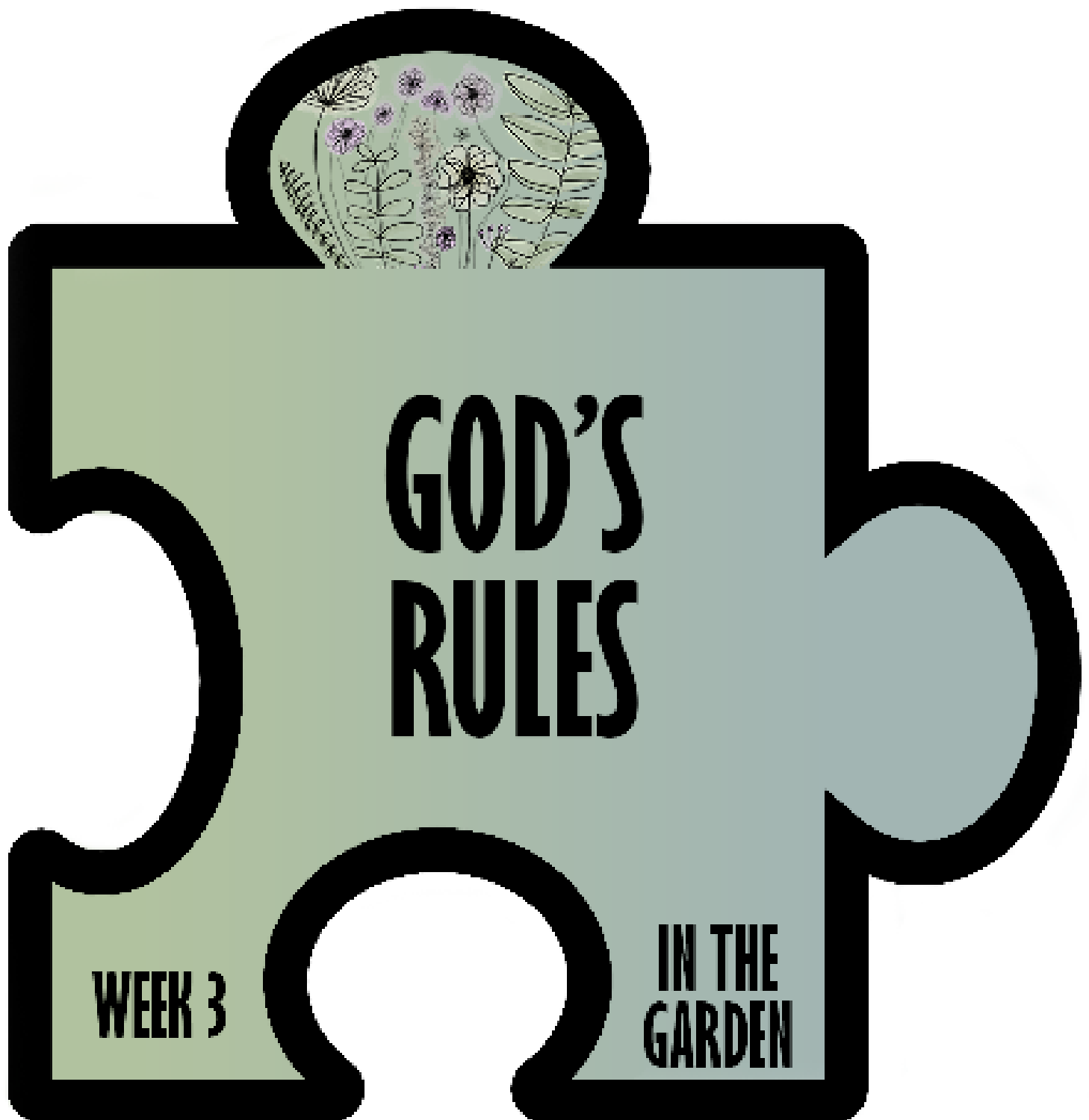
REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, “Every rule God gives is out of love. So even when we do not understand it, we can obey when God tells us to do something, knowing **God does everything for our good**. Let’s pray together before your parents [guardians] come.”

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“God, we thank You for working for our good. You are a good God! Help us remember this. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

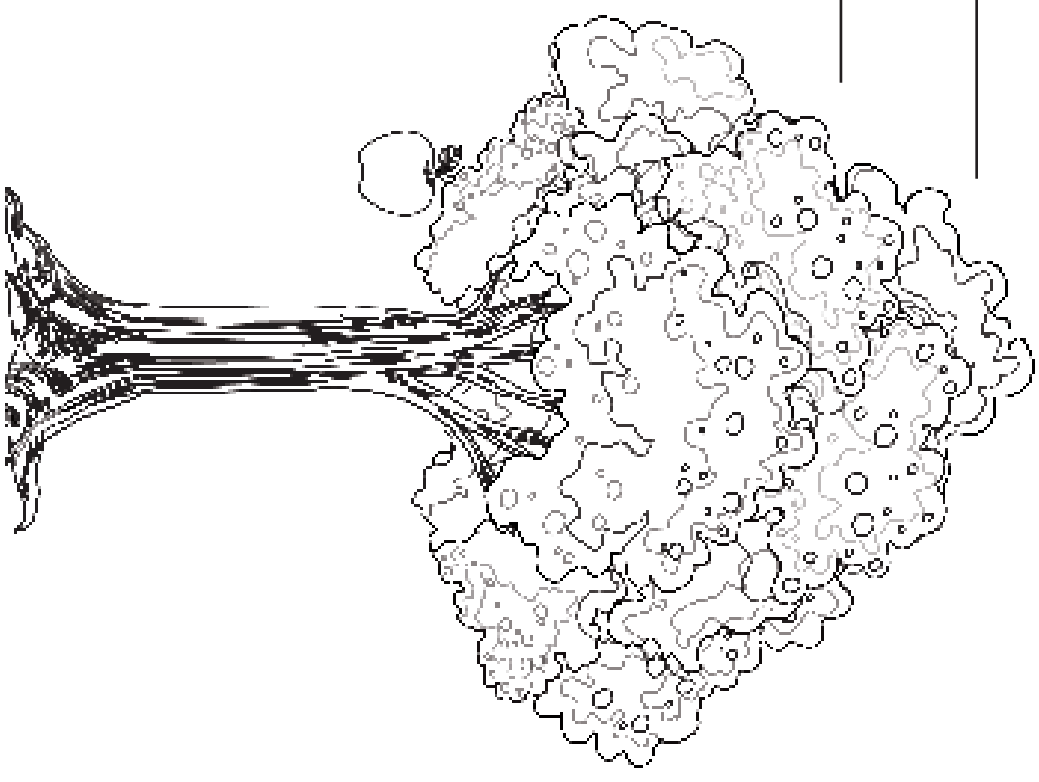
RELEASE — 5 MINUTES

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



RULES FOR YOUR GOOD

Rule: _____



OUT OF THE GARDEN

BIBLE PASSAGE

Genesis 3:6-7, 21-24 (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 | 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 praise 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 kind! You are the best Teacher, so teach us something new about Yourself. Help our class have a good 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* lessons are almost finished too! This is the last time we get to review our Big Idea: **God does everything for our good.** So far,

we have learned that God made Adam and Eve in His image. This was for their good! Then, we found out God created a good and beautiful garden for Adam and Eve. God had their good in mind when He made such a great place for them to live. Finally, last week, we talked about God's rules for His garden. Were the rules meant to be mean, or did they protect Adam and Eve? [Wait for responses.] Right! The rules were there for Adam and Eve's good because **God does everything for our good**. Are you ready for our last story?" Hang up today's puzzle piece.

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

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | **MATERIALS:** | 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 pretzels and mini marshmallows.

HOW TO PLAY:

- Divide your class into teams of three people and give each group forty pretzels and fifty mini marshmallows.
- Explain that each team will need to make a tree, and they can only use the pretzels and mini marshmallows to accomplish their task. (If this activity is too easy, challenge the kids to build a tree that stands on its own.)
- 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.



IF A CHILD IS SHY, NEW, OR OPPOSED TO PLAYING, LET THEM WATCH THE GAME OR BE A "HELPER." ONCE THEY SEE HOW MUCH FUN THE OTHER CHILDREN ARE HAVING, THEY MAY JUST DECIDE TO JOIN THE GAME."

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).

⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

²¹ The Lord God made clothes from animal skins for the man and his wife. And so the Lord dressed them. ²² 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." ²³ So the Lord God forced the man out of the garden of Eden. He had to work the ground he was taken from. ²⁴ God forc^{ed} 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 WEIGHT OF THIS 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.

TRANSITION: Say, “**God does everything for our good**—even when we disobey God. He makes a way for us to live with Him. Thank You, God!”

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 skins 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.

