

GOD IS TRUTH



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YEAR 3, UNIT 6

WRITER - SUMMER SNEED
MANAGING EDITOR - KRISTI CAIN
EDITOR (PRE-K) - AMY VEDANTHAM
EDITOR - TIFFANY TRAINOR
DESIGNER - ALLIE WAYNE



GOD IS TRUTH

MONTHLY PREPARATION GUIDE

YEAR 3, UNIT 06 - PRE-K

As we mentioned last month, what we believe to be true about God affects our ability to know Him, relate to Him, and share Him with others. This is why it's so important that we look to God's Word to know His character. This month we are continuing to discover God's character through His Word and it shows us He is true and trustworthy. This month we will learn that **God is Truth**.

WEEK 1

LESSON MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece | Paper | Pencils | *Truth Glasses* Activity Page (1 per child) | Cardstock | Scissors | Markers | Glue |

WEEK 2

LESSON MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece | Blanket | Stuffed Animals | White Butcher Paper (1 large piece per class) | Painters Tape | Markers | Old Magazines | Scissors | Glue Sticks |

WEEK 3

LESSON MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece | Music Player | *Paul and Silas* Activity Page (1 image per child) | Cardstock | Hole Punch | Yarn | Scissors | Tape | Crayons or Markers |

WEEK 4

LESSON MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece | *Memory Game* Activity Page (1 game for every three children) | Blue Construction Paper (1 per child) | *Jesus and Sunshine* Activity Page (1 per child) | Cotton Balls (2-3 per child) | Crayons or Markers | Scissors | Glue |

SAUL SEES THE TRUTH

BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 9:3-22 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God is Truth

FOCUS VERSE

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” John 8:31-32 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Cardstock | Marker | *Truth Glasses* Template Page |
Scissors | Markers | Glue |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Do you like to play hide and seek?
- Do you like hiding or finding your friends? Why?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Help preschoolers understand that singing is a type of worship. We sing to thank God for who He is. Tell them that God is real and true. We can trust Him because He loves us and wants what is best for us.

We recommend “We Can Trust Him” as a theme song for this unit. You can find it on YouTube from LifeTree Kids.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

After worshipping, lead the students in prayer.

Sample Prayer: “God, thank You for being You! I am so glad we can trust that everything You say is true. We are grateful that You love us and want to be our forever friend. Help us learn more about who You are. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”



YOU ARE A ROLE MODEL FOR THE PRESCHOOLERS ON HOW TO PRAY. USE THE SAMPLE PRAYER AND SAY IT IN SMALL REPEATABLE PHRASES THAT THE CHILDREN CAN SAY WITH YOU.

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

BACKGROUND: Say, “Today, we are starting a new group of lessons. We will spend the next four weeks learning that **God is true**. God shows us He is true and trustworthy through Jesus and His Word, the Bible. This month we will look at different passages in the Bible to help us understand what this means. Now, who would like to put up this week’s puzzle piece?”

TRANSITION: Say, “Let’s play a game to help us prepare for the story we’re going to read.”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES**MATERIALS:** | Cardstock (2 per class) | Marker |

CREATE TWO SIGNS, ONE THAT SAYS “TRUE” AND ONE THAT SAYS “FALSE.” YOU CAN PRINT THE SIGNS ON DIFFERENT COLORED PAPER, LIKE GREEN OR BLUE FOR “TRUE” AND RED OR YELLOW FOR “FALSE.”

Say, “Today we are going to see how well you can discover the truth about each other by playing a game called *True or False*. Let’s get started!”

GAME GOAL: To discover the difference between what is true and false

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Come up with one statement about each preschooler that is either true or false. Examples of false statements include: Luke is as tall as a building, Sarah’s hair is pink, and Tommy has octopus arms (the sillier, the better). The class should then consider which statement is true.
2. Have the preschoolers choose whether the statement is true or false.
3. When they have decided and shared their answer, let them know if the statement is true or false by holding up the corresponding sign.

TRANSITION: Say, “I loved watching you play this game! You did a fantastic job figuring out the true statements. Today we will learn how Jesus powerfully showed that God is true to a man named Saul. Let’s read the story together!”

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Did you know that God cannot lie? He always speaks the truth because **God is true**! Do you know who doesn’t always tell the truth or do the right thing? [Allow for responses.] Me and you! Sometimes, when we think we know what is true, we find out we are wrong. In today’s Bible story, a man named Saul thought he was doing good by trying to stop the first Christians from talking about Jesus. Let’s find out how Saul learned that **God is true** and how this truth changed his life.” Open your Bible to Acts 9.



WHEN READING THE STORY, CHANGE YOUR VOICE WITH EACH NEW DIALOGUE. THIS WILL HELP THE STORY COME ALIVE.

Say, "Our story comes from the Book of Acts. It's a book about the beginning of God's Church. As I mentioned, there was a man named Saul who thought he was right. He did not like that people believed in Jesus, and he tracked those people down and tried to frighten them. He decided to go to a town called Damascus to see if any of these people [Christians] were there." Read Acts 9:3-8 (ICB).

³ So Saul went to Damascus. As he came near the city, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. ⁴ Saul fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why are you doing things against me?"⁵ Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?"

The voice answered, "I am Jesus. I am the One you are trying to hurt. ⁶ Get up now and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do." ⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there, but they said nothing. They heard the voice, but they saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground. He opened his eyes, but he could not see. So the men with Saul took his hand and led him into Damascus.

Say, "How amazing is it that Jesus appeared to Saul? What would you do if Jesus showed up to you like that? [Allow for responses.] I love the fact that Jesus appeared to Saul, a man that was not kind to God's people [Christians] at all. You see, Jesus loved Saul and wanted him to know that **God is truth.**" Read Acts 9:9-12.

⁹ For three days Saul could not see, and he did not eat or drink.¹⁰ There was a follower of Jesus in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to Ananias in a vision, "Ananias!" Ananias answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight Street. Find the house of Judas. Ask for a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. He is there now, praying. ¹² Saul has seen a vision. In it a man named Ananias comes to him and lays his hands on him. Then he sees again."

Say, "I love how God is putting everything together so that Saul can hear the truth. He appeared to Saul and now He's speaking to Ananias. I wonder what Ananias thought when the Lord told him to go and see Saul. What would you do knowing that Saul was very mean to Christians? [Wait for responses.] The truth is Ananias was afraid of Saul because he heard all of the terrible things Saul was doing to frighten people who believed in Jesus." Read Acts 9:15.

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. He must tell about me to non-Jews, to kings, and to the people of Israel.

Say, "Ananias did what God told him to do and found Saul." Read Acts 9:17-21.

¹⁷ He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road on your way here. He sent me so that you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something that looked like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes. He was able to see again! Then Saul got up and was baptized. ¹⁹ After eating some food, his strength returned. Saul stayed with the followers of Jesus in Damascus for a few days. ²⁰ Soon he began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "Jesus is the Son of God!" ²¹ All the people who heard him were amazed.

Ask, "What do you think it was like when Saul could see again? What do you think it was like to hear Saul preaching about Jesus? [Allow time for responses.]"

Say, "God made a way for Saul to learn the truth. God wanted Saul to see the truth, so He sent Jesus and Ananias to help him know that God is true! After Saul learned the truth, he was changed forever! God used Saul to speak the truth about Jesus to the entire world!"

JOINING TO JESUS

Saul was not the first person whose journey was interrupted by Jesus. After Christ's resurrection, He met two men walking down another road. They didn't recognize Him at first, but by the end of their journey, their spiritual eyes were opened, and they realized they had been with Jesus all along! (See Luke 24.) Jesus reveals Himself in different ways to different people. Sometimes it's in big and exciting ways, and other times it is through ordinary, small ways. The critical thing to help our children recognize is that Jesus reveals the truth to His people, and He always speaks the truth because He is true!

TRANSITION: Say, "It's wonderful to know that we can trust God because He will never lie. **God is truth!**"

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, "What a great story. Let's discuss it."

1. Who did Saul not like?

Response: Saul did not like the followers of Jesus.

2. Where was Saul going?

Response: Damascus

3. What happened to Saul?

Response: God blinded him with a great light and Jesus appeared to him.

4. Who was afraid to help Saul?

Response: Ananias.

5. What happened to Saul when Ananias prayed for him?

Response: God healed Saul, and he could see.

6. What did Saul start doing after he was healed?

Response: He got baptized and started to preach.

7. What did you learn about God today?

Response: God is true. God is trustworthy. God wants us to know the truth. God loves us, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great discussion! Let's work on a craft that will help us remember that **God is true.**"

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Truth Glasses* Activity Page (1 per child) | Cardstock | Scissors | Markers | Glue |



BEFORE CLASS, PRINT THE *TRUTH GLASSES* ACTIVITY PAGE ON CARDSTOCK. MAKE SURE TO HAVE ONE ACTIVITY PAGE FOR EACH CHILD.

Say, "We are going to create a craft that will help us remember how God revealed Himself to Saul. To help Saul 'see' that Jesus is the truth, God sent a blinding light to him. We also need to 'see' and understand that Jesus is the truth. When we do, it changes our lives! Let's make some special 'truth glasses' to remind us to pray and ask God to show us that He is truth."

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each child a *Truth Glasses* Activity Page.
2. Instruct the children to color and decorate their glasses.
2. Finally, help the children cut out their glasses and glue the arms to the frames.

TRANSITION: Say, "Wow, you created some beautiful glasses! God wants us to see Him and know Him. Jesus came to reveal that **God is true**, just like He did for Saul!"

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Our memory verse for this month will help us remember that **God is true**. Who is ready to learn it? I will say it first and show you the hand motions. Then, let's practice it together."

So Jesus [put right middle finger to left palm, then left middle finger to right palm] **said to the Jews who had believed** [point to your head] **him,**
"If you abide [hug yourself] **in my word** [hold hands open like a book],
you are truly [two thumbs up] **my disciples, and you will know** [point to our head] **the truth** [hold arms in "T" position], **and the truth** [hold arms in "T" position] **will set you free** [stretch arms wide]."
John 8:31-32, ICB [hold hands open like a book]

OPTIONAL: Let students wear their "Truth Glasses" while reciting the verse.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

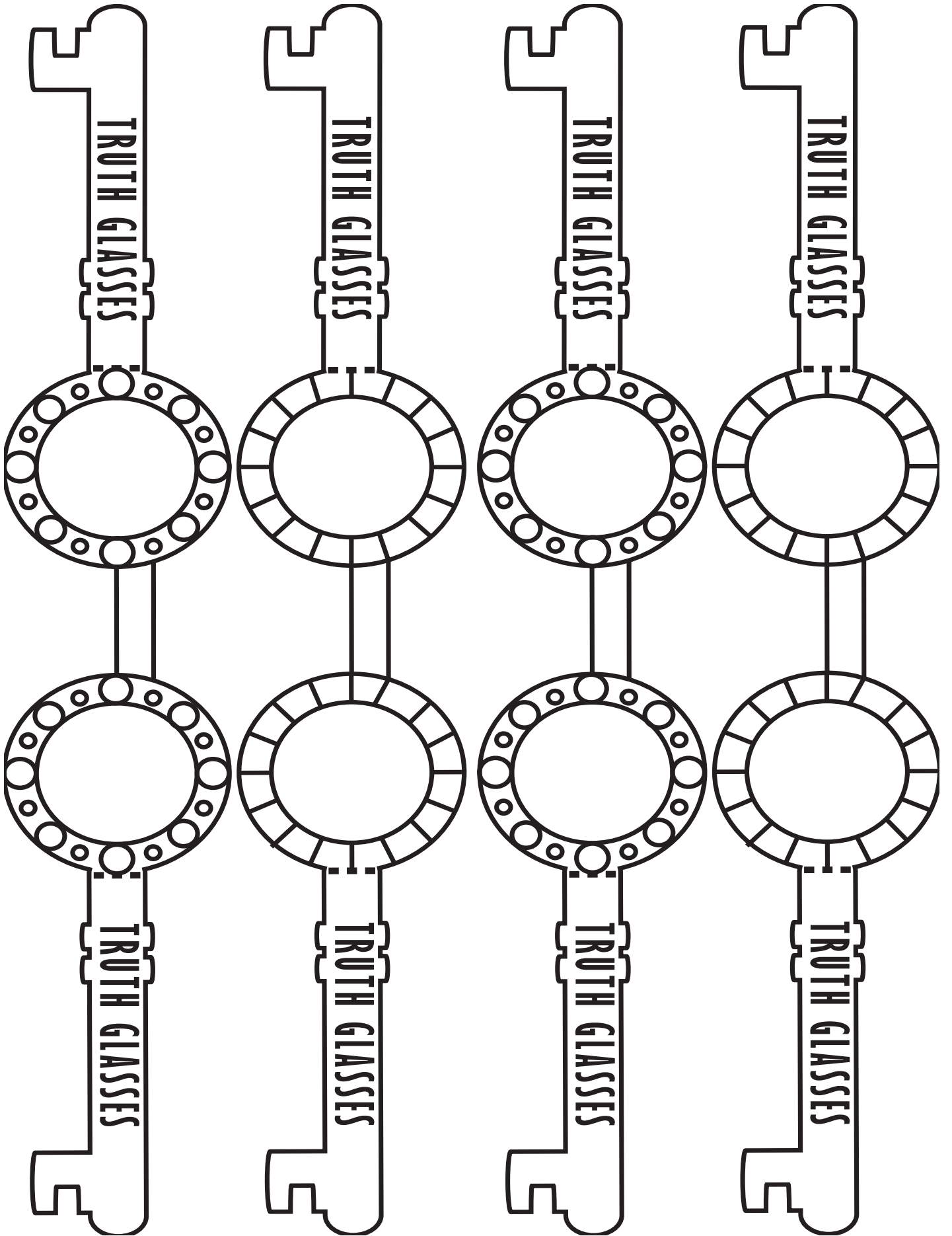
Say, "Jesus revealed the truth to Saul. He wants us also to know that **God is true**. Let's pray and ask God to help us see the truth and trust Him."

SAMPLE PRAYER: "God, thank You for revealing the truth in Your Word and Your Son, Jesus. Help us to know You as true and trustworthy. Amen!"

RELEASE — 5 MINUTES

If there is extra time, replay the *ENGAGE* game, finish the craft, or allow the children to ask questions about the lesson. When parents arrive, please give them a copy of the monthly Parent Guide. (downloadable).







PETER SEES THE TRUTH

BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 10 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God is Truth

FOCUS VERSE

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’ John 8:31-32 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Blanket | Stuffed Animals | White Butcher Paper | Painters Tape | Markers | Old Magazines | Scissors | Glue Sticks |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What is your least favorite food?
- What food do you love?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Do you ever wonder how big God is? Let’s put on our imagination hats [bring both hands up and put them on your head]. Is God bigger than this building? Is God bigger than the trees? What about bigger than the tallest mountain? [Wait for responses after each question.] God is so big! He is bigger than anything we can imagine. Not only is he big, but He is true! Let’s sing, thanking God that He is big and true and that we can trust Him.”

We recommend “We Can Trust Him” as a theme song for this unit. You can find it on YouTube from LifeTree Kids. “Abide” by Aaron Williams is also a fantastic choice for this lesson (and the whole unit).

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

After you worship together, lead the students in prayer or have a student pray.

SAMPLE PRAYER: “God, I am so grateful that You want us to know You. Help us learn to trust You and believe everything Your Word says because You are the truth. We love You. Amen.”

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, "Today, we will continue our lessons about *Seeing the Truth*. We are learning that **God is truth!** Last week, we learned how an enemy of God, a man named Saul, learned the truth from Jesus and how that knowledge changed his life. Today we will learn how a disciple of Jesus named Peter learned an important and surprising truth about God's love for the world. First, though, let's post this week's puzzle piece. Who would like to do that for us today?"

TRANSITION: Say, "Our lesson today talks about the food we can eat. Let's pretend that we are going on a picnic! Look, I even set a blanket out for us to sit on!"

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Blanket |

Say, "We are going to play a game called *Going on a Picnic!*"

GAME GOAL: To help kids think about the foods they can eat.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Have the preschoolers and leaders sit on the blanket and in a circle. Tell the children to think of any food they would like to eat. When it's their turn, they say, "It's a warm, sunny day, and we're going on a picnic. Let's take..."
2. The first person will say the line and include a name of a food. Each player will repeat the sentence and the food, then add another food. The food list will get longer as each player says a food.
3. The game is over when everyone has a turn.



IF A PRESCHOOLER HAS DIFFICULTY REMEMBERING WHAT THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO SAY NEXT, HELP THEM IDENTIFY THE MISSING FOOD. WE RECOMMEND PLAYING THIS GAME COLLABORATIVELY RATHER THAN COMPETITIVELY.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job playing our game! I love the foods you named! Today we will learn how God used the food people eat to reveal a wonderful truth to Peter about His love for the world."

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Stuffed Animals |

Say, "Let's read from Acts 10 to find out about a surprising truth God revealed to Peter." Open your Bible to Acts 10 (ICB). Use the stuffed animals to represent the clean and unclean animals.



CONSIDER TELLING MOST OF THE STORY IN YOUR OWN WORDS OR USE THE SYNOPSIS WE PROVIDED. OPEN YOUR BIBLE AND SHOW THE STUDENTS WHERE THE STORY IS FOUND. THIS PROCESS WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE IF YOU HAVE IMMERSSED YOURSELF IN THE TEXT BY PRAYERFULLY READING THE CHAPTER SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE YOUR CLASS MEETS.

Say, "Our story is about a man named Cornelius and Peter, the apostle. Peter was Jewish and followed God's rules carefully. He didn't eat certain foods because they were against Jewish law. Cornelius was a Roman citizen who loved God, was generous with his money and prayed a lot. One day, Cornelius saw a vision [explain that a vision is like a dream, except you are awake], telling him to invite Peter to his home. He sent his servants to bring Peter to his house. God also spoke to Peter." Read Acts 10: 9-16 (ICB)

⁹ The next day as they came near Joppa, Peter was going up to the roof to pray. It was about noon. ¹⁰ Peter was hungry and wanted to eat. But while the food was being prepared, he had a vision. ¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something coming down. It looked like a big sheet being lowered to earth by its four corners. ¹² In it were all kinds of animals, reptiles, and birds. ¹³ Then a voice said to Peter, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." ¹⁴ But Peter said, "No, Lord! I have never eaten food that is unholy or unclean." ¹⁵ But the voice said to him again, "God has made these things clean. Don't call them 'unholy!'" ¹⁶ This happened three times. Then the sheet was taken back to heaven.

Say, "After Peter's vision, Cornelius' servants arrived at the house. The Holy Spirit told Peter to follow these men and not to ask questions, so he followed the men to Cornelius' house. Many people were there waiting to hear what Peter would tell them." Read Acts 10:28-33.

²⁸ He said, "You people understand that it is against our Jewish law for a Jew to associate with or visit anyone who is not a Jew. But God has shown me that I should not call any person 'unholy' or 'unclean.' ²⁹ That is why I did not argue when I was asked to come here. Now, please tell me why you sent for me." ³⁰ Cornelius said, "Four days ago, I was praying in my house. It was at this same time—three o'clock in the afternoon. Suddenly, there was a man standing before me wearing shining clothes. ³¹ He said, 'Cornelius! God has heard your prayer. He has seen what you give to the poor. And God remembers you. ³² So send some men to Joppa and ask Simon Peter to come. Peter is staying in the house of a man, also named Simon, who is a leatherworker. His house is beside the sea.' ³³ So I sent for you immediately, and it was very good of you to come. Now we are all here before God to hear everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us."

Say, "Peter now understood what his vision about clean and unclean food meant! God wanted Peter to share the good news of Jesus with everyone! Peter told the people about Jesus, how He was God's Son who came to live with us, die for us, forgive us, and make a way for us to live forever with Him." Read Acts 10:44-48.

⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying this, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who were listening. ⁴⁵ The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been given even to the non-Jewish people. ⁴⁶ These Jewish believers heard them speaking in different languages and praising God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we did!" ⁴⁸ So Peter ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Say, "God wanted to teach Peter a very important truth - He loved ALL the people in the world. Because Peter believed that God always tells the truth, Peter changed his thinking about other people. He was willing to share the truth of God's love with Cornelius and his family. Jesus' forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit are available to every man, woman, boy, and girl. God loved Peter and wanted Peter to share the message that **God is truth.**"

JOINING TO JESUS

Before Jesus returned to Heaven, He gave Peter and the other disciples a final command: “Go and make disciples of all nations...you will receive power from the Holy Spirit and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (See Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8.) Jesus wants everyone to hear the good news, and He is faithful to send people like Peter to share the gospel with people from all over the world.

TRANSITION: Say, “Today’s lesson is good news! God loves ALL people! He wants to teach us the truth about who He is every day. And even if the truth surprises us, like Peter, we can be sure that we should listen and obey because **God is truth!**”

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, “What a great story. Let’s discuss it.”

1. Who were the people in our story today?

Response: Cornelius and Peter

2. What came down from heaven on a blanket?

Response: Animals

3. Who did Peter go to visit?

Response: Cornelius.

4. What good news did Peter share with Cornelius?

Response: God wants everyone to hear about Jesus’ love and forgiveness.

5. What happened when Peter shared the good news of Jesus?

Response: The people were filled with the Holy Spirit.

6. What did you learn about God in today’s lesson?

Response: God is true. God loves all people. God wants people to know truth. God will teach the truth to those who want to hear it, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, “Great discussion! Let’s work on a craft that will help us remember that **God is truth.**”

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | White Butcher Paper (1 large piece per class) | Painters Tape | Markers | Old Magazines | Scissors | Glue Sticks |

Say, “We will create a class collage to help us remember the truth from today’s story. God loves all people and wants everyone to receive His forgiveness and know Him forever. Let’s make a giant picture to remind us that God is loving and true.”

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Tape a large piece of white butcher paper on the wall using painters tape.
2. At the top of the paper, write, "God is true, and He loves all people."
3. Make the magazines, scissors, and glue available.
4. Explain to the kids that they are to find pictures of people God loves, cut them out, and glue them to the butcher paper. Have the children work on this project until the collage is full.

TRANSITION: Say, "Let's keep this collage in our classroom to remind us of Peter's vision and that God is true. He can be trusted and obeyed even if the truth He reveals is surprising!"



PRECUT SOME PICTURES FOR THOSE WITH DEVELOPING SCISSOR SKILLS.

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Our memory verse for this month will help us remember that **God is truth**. Who is ready to practice it with me?"

So Jesus [put right middle finger to left palm, then left middle finger to right palm] **said to the Jews who had believed** [point to your head] **him,**
"If you abide [hug yourself] **in my word** [hold hands open like a book],
you are truly [two thumbs up] **my disciples, and you will know** [point to our head] **the truth** [hold arms in "T" position], **and the truth** [hold arms in "T" position] **will set you free** [stretch arms wide]."
John 8:31-32, ICB [hold hands open like a book]

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "God showed Peter that the good news of Jesus is for everyone who believes. He used Cornelius to teach Peter that God is true and wants to reveal the truth to the world, no matter who you are. Let's pray and ask God to reveal more truth about who He is. Who wants to start our prayer?"

SAMPLE PRAYER: "God, thank You for loving us—all of us and each one of us! No matter where we come from, we can have salvation and the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Help us share this Good News with everyone we meet, even if they are very different from us! Amen!"

RELEASE —

If there is extra time, replay *Going on a Picnic* or allow time for free play.



THE PRISON GUARD SEES THE TRUTH

BIBLE PASSAGE

Acts 16:16-34 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God is Truth

FOCUS VERSE

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” John 8:31-32 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Music Player | Dress-up Clothes | *Paul and Silas* Activity Page | Cardstock | Hole Punch | Yarn | Scissors | Tape | Crayons or Markers |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Have you ever felt an earthquake? What was it like?
- How did you feel? (Scared, Sad, Angry, etc.) or How do you THINK you would feel (if you’ve never experienced an earthquake)?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Sometimes we go through scary things and may feel afraid, but God says He will always be with us. We can trust God because **God is truth**. Today’s lesson will teach us about two men: Paul and Silas. They went through some scary stuff, but they could praise God because they knew God was with them. We can also praise God because He is true and will be with us no matter what.”

We recommend “We Can Trust Him” as a theme song for this unit. You can find it on YouTube from LifeTree Kids. “We Believe” by Yancy not Nancy is also a fantastic choice for this lesson.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather the class for corporate prayer. Allow a willing student to lead the prayer.

SAMPLE PRAYER: “God, thank You for being the only true God. We can worship You when we are happy and feel safe; we can also worship You when we are scared or afraid. Help us to worship You with all we say and do. Amen!”

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “Two weeks ago, we learned about a Jewish man named Saul who thought he was following God, but he was wrong. He did not understand the truth. Jesus showed him who He really is while Saul traveled the road to Damascus. This meeting with Jesus completely changed Saul’s life! We will learn more about that today! Last week, we learned how God revealed the truth to Peter and Cornelius—the truth about His love for all the people of the world! So far in our lessons, we are seeing that the truth God shows us will change our lives when we believe it.”

TRANSITION: Say, “Now, let’s play a game before we read our story!”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Music player |

Say, “Today we are going to play a game called *Musical Statues* [or *Freeze Dance*]! Who’s ready to play?”

GAME GOAL: Students will dance while the music is playing and freeze in place when the music stops.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Gather the students in a large circle.
2. Choose fun, energetic music to play.
3. While the music is playing, students will dance and move around.
4. When the music stops, all students must freeze like a statue in whatever position their bodies are moving while dancing.
5. Any student who moves after the music stops is out of the game for that round.
6. Continue playing and stopping the music. Students who get “out” can help judge.
7. The winner is the last student who becomes a statue when the music stops!

TRANSITION: Say, “Great job dancing and freezing like a statue! You have fantastic listening skills. Today we are going to learn how Paul listened to God and how God showed him when to move and when to stay still!”

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Dress-up Clothes |

Say, “Two weeks ago, we met a man named Saul who learned the truth about God. Saul hated Christians and would go around hurting them. But God had better plans for Saul. On the road to Damascus, God got Saul’s attention by sending a blinding light and asking him why he was hurting God’s people. Saul realized that he was wrong and that **God is truth**. Saul became a missionary and spread the good news of Jesus to people who were not Jewish. He changed his name to Paul to show that he was a friend to everyone.

"Today, we will hear a story about when Paul went to a place called Philippi. Can you say, 'Philippi'? Great job! Now, I will need some helpers to act out the story. Can I get three friends to help me?"

Select three children to dress up as Paul, Silas, and the jailer. Give the class a brief description of each character.



THE COSTUMES CAN BE AS SIMPLE AS SCARVES AND A CARDBOARD SWORD. SELECT OLDER PRESCHOOLERS FOR THE ACTORS. BRING THE CHILD NEXT TO YOU WHEN YOU READ ABOUT THEIR CHARACTER. PRESCHOOLERS MAY NOT ACT OUT THE STORY COMPLETELY, BUT HAVING THEM IDENTIFY CHARACTERS WILL ALLOW FOR A LAYERED LEARNING EXPERIENCE. THE MORE INTERACTIVE THE STORY, THE MORE SIGNIFICANT THE IMPACT.

Say, "You all look great! Let's read the story!" Read Acts 16:16-17 (ICB).

¹⁶ Once, while we were going to the place for prayer, a servant girl met us. She had a special spirit in her. She earned a lot of money for her owners by telling fortunes. ¹⁷ This girl followed Paul and us. She said loudly, "These men are servants of the Most High God! They are telling you how you can be saved!"

Say, "Have you ever met someone who said true things but said it in a mean way? Like saying, 'you have big feet,' but saying it like this [repeat the phrase in a disgusted voice]. This girl may have been saying something true, but she was not being helpful." Read Acts 16:18-19.

¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. This bothered Paul, so he turned and said to the spirit, "By the power of Jesus Christ, I command you to come out of her!" Immediately, the spirit came out. ¹⁹ The owners of the servant girl saw this. These men knew that now they could not use her to make money. So they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the city rulers in the marketplace.

Bring the children who are playing Paul and Silas up next to you. Say, "Paul and Silas did not do anything wrong. They were just going to pray, but the town's people were angry. Can you all make angry faces?" (Wait for facial expressions.) Continue by reading Read Acts 16:23-24.

²³ After being severely beaten, Paul and Silas were thrown into jail. The jailer was ordered to guard them carefully. ²⁴ When he heard this order, he put them far inside the jail. He pinned down their feet between large blocks of wood.

Say, "Jailer, can you have Paul and Silas sit down and act like you are putting chains on their feet? [Wait for the children to act out the scene.] I wonder what it would have been like in that jail. Do you think it would be cold or cozy and comfy?" (Allow for responses.)

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing songs to God. The other prisoners were listening to them.

Say, "Wait! Do you mean to tell me that Paul and Silas weren't crying or complaining? Would you cry or sing in a cold, hard jail? [Allow for responses.] I wonder what songs they were singing? What songs would you sing to God?" (Allow for responses.) Continue reading from Acts 16:26.

²⁶ Suddenly, there was a big earthquake. It was so strong that it shook the foundation of the jail.

Have the children stomp their feet on the floor to imitate the sound of an earthquake. Encourage the Jailer, Paul, and Silas to move around like they are in an earthquake.

Then all the doors of the jail broke open. All the prisoners were freed from their chains. ²⁷ The jailer woke up and saw that the jail doors were open. He thought that the prisoners had already escaped. So he got his sword and was about to harm himself. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, "Don't hurt yourself! We are all here!" ²⁹ The jailer told someone to bring a light. Then he ran inside. Shaking with fear, he fell down before Paul and Silas.

Have the jailer kneel next to Paul and Silas.

³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They said to him, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved—you and all the people in your house." ³² So Paul and Silas told the message of the Lord to the jailer and all the people in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took Paul and Silas and washed their wounds. Then he and all his people were baptized immediately. ³⁴ After this the jailer took Paul and Silas home and gave them food. He and his family were very happy because they now believed in God.

Say, "Wow! What an exciting story! What's more amazing is that it's true because God's Word is true. Why? Because **God is truth**. We can sing and be happy even when things aren't going our way because God is with us."



THIS MAY BE AN EXCELLENT TIME TO BRIEFLY DISCUSS THAT GOD IS STILL WITH US EVEN WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN. WE CAN TRUST THAT GOD WILL BE OUR HELPER BECAUSE HE HAS PROMISED NEVER TO LEAVE US ALONE (DEUTERONOMY 31:6).

JOINING TO JESUS

Your preschoolers may feel God only speaks to grown-ups or church leaders. Help them understand that He speaks to all His children. The voice of Jesus isn't usually something we hear physically; it might be an idea or recurring thought. He may also speak to us through other people or experiences. So, how do we know if the voice is God's? Jesus only speaks the truth, and He brings us peace and joy. Everything Jesus says will ALWAYS agree with what God says in the Bible. That's why we need to teach the children God's Word. As they grow in their knowledge of the Bible, they will be able to recognize Jesus' voice when He speaks to them.

TRANSITION: Say, "Wasn't that an amazing story with all of the singing, earthquakes, and people becoming forever friends with Jesus? God is amazing!"

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, "What a great story. Let's talk about it."

1. Who told the truth but did not do it nicely?

Response: The servant girl

2. What happened to Paul and Silas?

Response: They were thrown in jail.

3. What did they do in jail?

Response: They sang songs to God.

4. What happened while they were singing?

Response: An earthquake

5. Who became afraid after the earthquake?

Response: The jailer

6. What good thing happened to the jailer?

Response: He and his family became believers in Jesus!

7. What did you learn about God today?

Response: God is true and trustworthy. God is always with us. God will take care of us. God loves us.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great discussion! Let's work on a craft that will help us remember that **God is true.**"

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Paul and Silas* Activity Page (1 image per child) | Cardstock | Hole Punch | Yarn | Scissors | Tape | Crayons or Markers |



BEFORE CLASS, PRINT THE *PAUL AND SILAS* ACTIVITY PAGE ON CARDSTOCK. THERE WILL BE TWO PICTURES PER PAGE. CUT THEM APART SO YOU CAN GIVE ONE IMAGE TO EACH CHILD.

Say, "We will create a craft to help us remember today's lesson. Who's ready?"

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each student one *Paul and Silas* image and have them color it.
2. Punch four holes in the circles at the top and bottom of each picture.
3. Have the children choose their yarn and cut a long piece they can use to "sew" the prison bars. (Tape the yarn on the back to secure it.)

TRANSITION: Say, "Wow! Your pictures look great! What was your favorite part of today's lesson? I hope you'll share your craft with your families and share the Good News with them, just like Paul and Silas did for the jailer."

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "This month, we have been memorizing John 8:31-32 [ICB]. It reminds us that God speaks truth to His disciples. Who can tell me how He does that? [Give the children a few moments to respond.] God tells us what is true in His Word. His Word is Jesus and the Bible. Let's practice our Bible verse together now. It is true!"

So Jesus [put right middle finger to left palm, then left middle finger to right palm] **said to the Jews who had believed** [point to your head] **him,**
“If you abide [hug yourself] **in my word** [hold hands open like a book],
you are truly [two thumbs up] **my disciples, and you will know** [point to our head] **the truth** [hold arms in “T” position], **and the truth** [hold arms in “T” position] **will set you free** [stretch arms wide].”
John 8:31-32, ICB [hold hands open like a book]

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, “God was with Paul and Silas. They trusted God would be with them, even when things seemed bad, because **God is truth!** Let’s pray and ask God to help follow Paul’s example!”

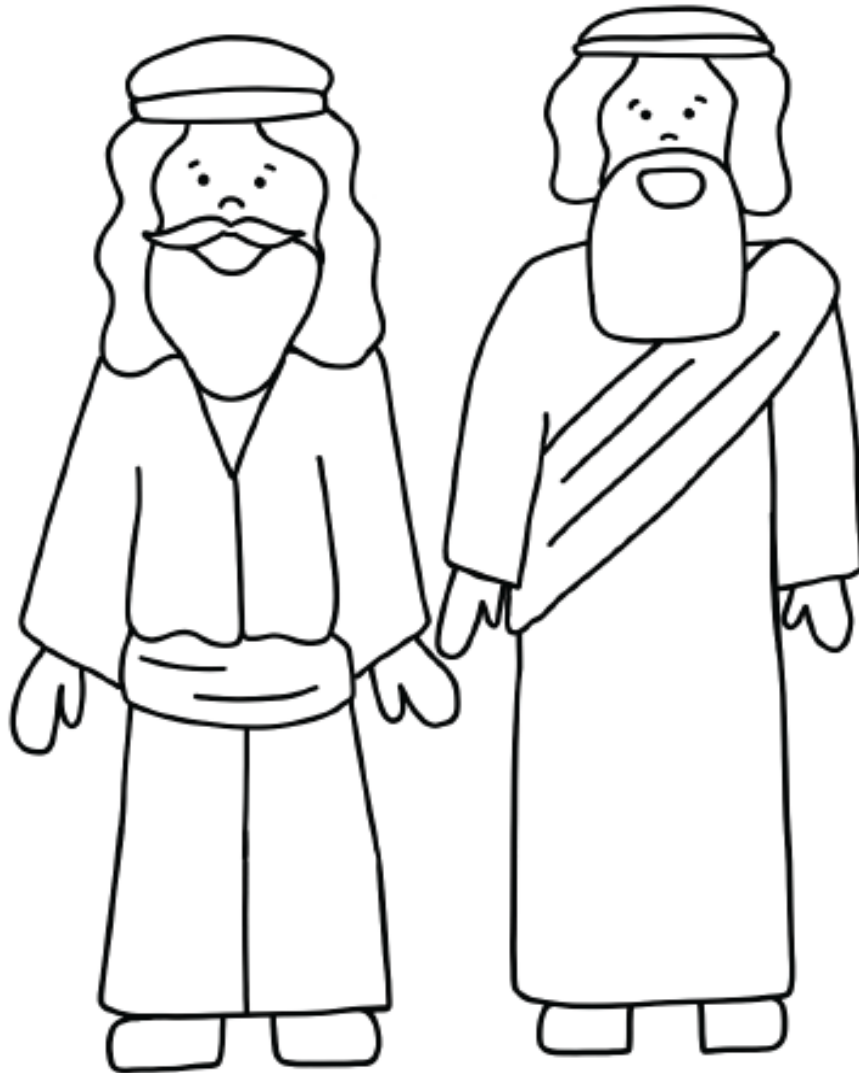
SAMPLE PRAYER: “*God, thank You for speaking the truth to all Your children! You want to share the truth with us so we can share it with others! Please help us to listen to your voice and obey You. Thank You for being true! Amen.*”

RELEASE —

If there is extra time, replay the game, review the big idea, finish the craft, or allow the children to ask questions about the lesson.



PAUL AND SILAS ACTIVITY PAGE



JOHN SEES THE TRUTH

BIBLE PASSAGE

Revelation 21:1-7 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God is Truth

FOCUS VERSE

“So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, ‘If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” John 8:31-32 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | *Memory Game* Activity Page | Blue Construction Paper | *Jesus and Sunshine* Activity Page | Cotton balls | Crayons or Markers | Scissors | Glue |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What do you think Heaven will look like?
- What do you think you will do in Heaven?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Teaching kids that God is worthy of our trust and worship is essential. As they grow, they will ask questions about why they should worship God. This unit study seeks to teach them that one of the countless reasons God is worthy of worship is because **God is truth**—and that makes Him trustworthy! Choose worship songs that emphasize this idea.

We recommend “We Can Trust Him” as a theme song for this unit. You can find it on YouTube from LifeTree Kids.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Before you teach, lead the class in prayer or have one of the children pray. You can teach them how to pray by having them repeat after you.

SAMPLE PRAYER: “God, we praise You for You are true! Help us to remember that one day we will see You because You promised that to us! Amen!”

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “Today, we will complete this month’s lessons. What is the big lesson we have learned? Yes! **God is truth!** God also wants His people to know the truth about who He is. We have learned that through the stories of Saul, Peter, Cornelius, and many others. Today we will learn an amazing and important truth that God has for us—for you! Who would like to put up this week’s puzzle piece before we start our lesson?”

TRANSITION: Say, “Now, let’s play a game that will prepare our minds and hearts for God’s Word.”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Memory Game Activity Page* (1 game for every three children) |



BEFORE CLASS, PRINT AND CUT OUT THE *MEMORY GAME ACTIVITY PAGE*. BE SURE TO HAVE ONE SET OF CARDS FOR EVERY THREE CHILDREN.

Say, “Today, we are going to play a memory game! You will have to find the matching cards. Who is ready to play?”

GAME GOAL: To identify the matching pictures to create card pairs.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Divide the children into groups of three or four. Help the children shuffle and place the cards face down on the floor in even rows.
2. Have preschoolers take turns selecting two cards to find a match. If a match is made, they should collect the cards and put them to the side. If a match is not made, have the child return the cards to the same spot where they got them.
3. Play until all matches are made.

TRANSITION: Say, “You all have amazing memories! The pictures from the game are similar images to what we will hear about in today’s lesson. Let’s learn more now!”

LEARN — 15 MINUTES

Say, “Today’s lesson comes from the book of Revelation, the last book in the Bible. It was written by one of Jesus’ disciples named John. Before Jesus went to Heaven, He promised that He would come back. John lived for a long time after that. It was so long that people who loved Jesus started to wonder if God is true. God wanted His people to trust Him and have hope that Jesus’ promise would come true, so He gave John this amazing vision, a revelation. Do you want to hear it?” Read Revelation 21: 1-7 (ICB) and insert the questions and dialogue as indicated.



USE THE MEMORY GAME CARDS TO HELP YOU TELL THE STORY. THIS IS AN ABSTRACT STORY, AND VISUALS WILL HELP PRESCHOOLERS CONTEXTUALIZE WHAT IS BEING READ.

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared. Now there was no sea. ² And I saw the holy city coming down out of heaven from God. This holy city is the new Jerusalem.

Say, "I wonder what it would be like to see a city coming down from heaven?"

It was prepared like a bride dressed for her husband. ³ I heard a loud voice from the throne. The voice said, "Now God's home is with men. He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them and will be their God.

Say, "I wonder what it would be like to live with God forever?"

⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, sadness, crying, or pain. All the old ways are gone."

Say, "I wonder what it would be like never to have to say goodbye or have any boo-boos or scraps?"

⁵ The One who was sitting on the throne said, "Look! I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this, because these words are true and can be trusted." ⁶ The One on the throne said to me: "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega,^[c] the Beginning and the End. I will give free water from the spring of the water of life to anyone who is thirsty.

⁷ Anyone who wins the victory will receive this. And I will be his God, and he will be my son.

Say, "Wow! What an incredible vision! What an amazing promise! One day we will live in a beautiful city with God the Father, God the Son [Jesus], and God the Holy Spirit! All of our other Christian family and friends will be there too.

"Even though we can't see God now, we will see Him forever in a place where we will never hurt or feel sad or lose people we love ever again. God is reminding us that one day—He will make everything new! And if God promised it, it will happen because **God is truth!**"

JOINING TO JESUS

Before John's vision, Jesus made a promise to John and the other disciples. He told them, "My Father's house has many rooms...I am going there to prepare a place for you...I will come back and take you to be with me so that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2) We wait with hope for His return to take us to live with Him forever.

TRANSITION: Say, "What a beautiful hope we have for the future. When we believe in Jesus and follow Him, He promises that we will see Him and live in perfect happiness forever."

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, "What a lesson today! Let's discuss it."

1. Who saw the vision in today's lesson?

Response: John

2. What came down from heaven?

Response: A new city, the New Jerusalem

3. What will make the city perfect?

Response: Jesus being there will make the city perfect.

4. What will the city not have?

Response: Death, sadness, and pain

5. How can we know this vision will happen?

Response: God gave John this vision, and **God is truth!**

5. What did you learn about God today?

Response: **God is truth.** God will make a new heaven and a new earth. God wants us to live with Him forever, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "Thank you for paying such good attention! Let's work on a craft that will help us remember that **God is truth.**"

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Blue Construction Paper (1 per child) | Jesus and Sunshine Activity Page (1 per child) | Cotton Balls (2-3 per child) | Crayons or Markers | Scissors | Glue |

Say, "Today, we will make a craft to remind us of the beautiful truth God has promised us! God's promises can be trusted because **God is truth.**"

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each student the *Jesus and Sunshine* Activity Page.
2. Instruct the children to color and cut out the Jesus and sunshine images.
3. Students should glue the sun and Jesus onto their blue construction paper.
4. Next, have the kids glue the cotton balls to the paper to create a visual of Jesus returning to Earth to get His followers.
5. Finally, write "Jesus will return!" at the bottom of the children's pages.

TRANSITION: Say, "These are beautiful crafts! Take them home and remember the amazing truth God has promised you! Jesus has gone to heaven to prepare a place for us to live with Him forever. One day we will see Him again! You can be sure it will happen because **God is truth.**"

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Our memory verse for this month is helping us remember that God is true. Who is ready to say it with me?"

So Jesus [put right middle finger to left palm, then left middle finger to right palm] **said to the Jews who had believed** [point to your head] **him,**
“If you abide [hug yourself] **in my word** [hold hands open like a book],
you are truly [two thumbs up] **my disciples, and you will know** [point to our head] **the truth** [hold arms in “T” position], **and the truth** [hold arms in “T” position] **will set you free** [stretch arms wide].”
John 8:31-32, ICB [hold hands open like a book]

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, “This month, we have learned many stories about God being true. Let’s thank Him for showing us that truth and being our forever friend!

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“God, thank You for Your promises! We can’t wait to see You and live with You forever! Waiting can be hard, but we can trust You. We love You so much, Jesus. Amen!”*

RELEASE —

If there is extra time, replay the ENGAGE game, review the big idea, finish the craft, or allow the children to ask questions about the lesson.



