

dwell®

## Awaken Kids to the Ongoing Story of God





video games  
important messages  
class video streaming  
-second visuals  
peer pressure  
competit  
friends high-  
chores

**What if church wasn't more of the same, but less?**

What if the children's ministry program was a place where kids could breathe . . . imagine . . . create . . . listen . . . be still . . . and know God?

Welcome to DWELL. 

DWELL gives kids less noise and more time to experience God.

DWELL offers kids and leaders opportunities to worship and to wonder into God's story as they live out of it together.

DWELL is filled with easy-to-use resources that help leaders share their faith, help kids find their place in God's story, and help families actively nurture faith at home.

**How's that for a breath of fresh air?**

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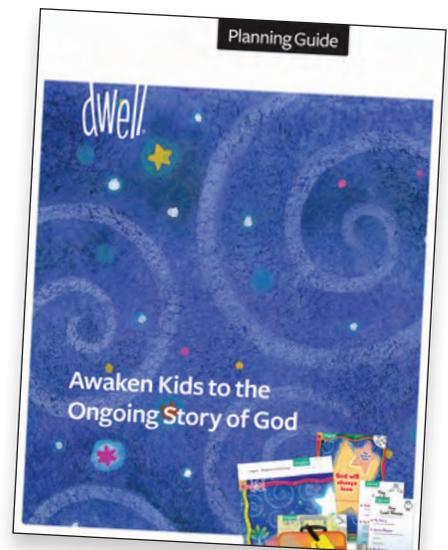
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speed connections soccer practice  
s MP3s piano lessons

## Starting something new can feel incredibly exciting . . . and daunting.

We've designed DWELL to be simple and inviting to lead. You'll find all kinds of information to help you get started in this guide. Flip through these pages for more details on DWELL—including an outline of the entire curriculum, tips on finding leaders, a litany for a Celebration Service to kick off a new season, and a complete checklist of everything you need to do to get started.

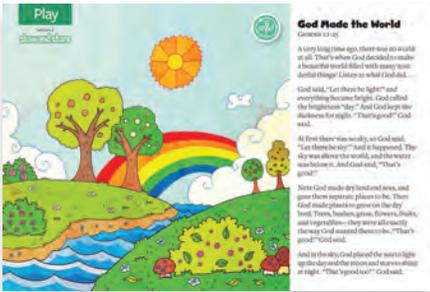
Of course we'd also be happy to personally answer any questions you have. Just call 1-800-333-8300 or email [editors@faithaliveresources.org](mailto:editors@faithaliveresources.org) to connect with a member of the team at Faith Alive.

**It's time to DWELL.**



# Play, Imagine, Wonder, Marvel, Dive: Inviting Kids to Enter the Story

In DWELL, kids do more than hear a story. They experience it. And each level of DWELL has a name that reflects that experience.



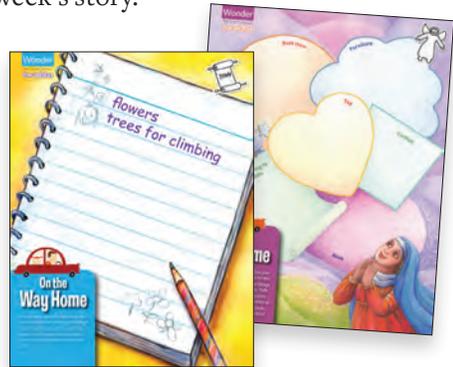
## Play

Preschoolers love to hop, dance, and run, and they learn a lot about God’s world through their senses. Play harnesses that natural kinetic activity to capture their attention as you help them come to know God’s Story and God’s love. Each week

children will receive a sturdy take-home card for families to use in sharing the story at home! The 36 session Play kit includes lesson plans, leader’s resources, a CD and song lyrics, and one set of take-home cards.

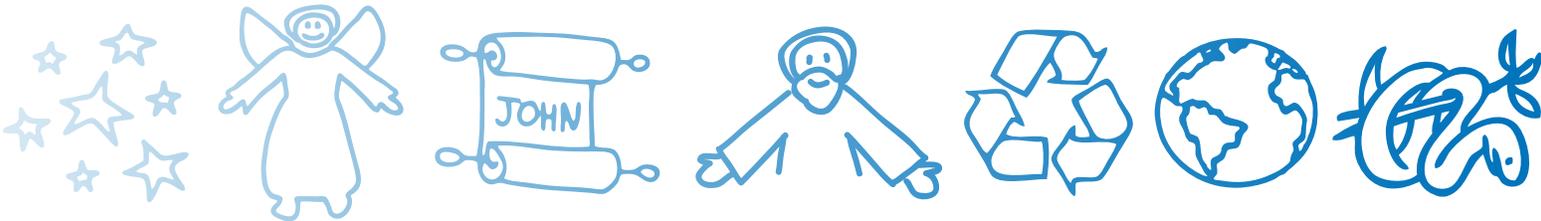
## Wonder

Grades 2-3 kids are a curious bunch—they’ve got lots of questions about why and how things happen. This level is designed to give kids space to pause, to wonder, and to reflect on God’s story. Like kids at the Imagine level, this group gets a Show and Share paper each week—only it’s a little bigger, just like they are! The Show and Share papers at this level may be used at church, and they often feature a special activity kids can use “On the Way Home,” along with a version of that week’s story.



## Imagine

Kids in grades K-1 are great pretenders, and they get to experience God’s story as they imagine the sights, sounds, and people in it. They’re also invited to retell and respond to that story through play, art activities, games, and more. Each week kids receive a Show and Share paper to use at church and/or at home with their families.



## Marvel

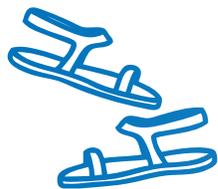
Kids in grades 4-5 are eager to explore the world around them. They love to gather information and dig into a subject; they have a growing sense of time and space, of cause and effect. They're beginning to understand the sequence of stories in the Bible—and to see how all these stories fit together into God's one big story. Because we want to encourage these kids to get to know the Bible and to spend time reading God's stories at home, they'll get a Storymark each week to tuck into their Bibles. It's filled with fun facts about the story and cool challenges to do at home.



## Dive

Middle schoolers are ready to be more independent in what they do and what they think. At this level we help young teens look to God for answers to their questions and consider how creeds and confessions are connected to the Bible. In addition to Dive magazines used at church, we've created an interactive

devotional book for young teens to use at home.



## Symbols Tell the Story

Each story in DWELL is assigned a symbol—a visual cue that will help kids remember the stories they hear and explore. Together all the stories in DWELL create a picture timeline of God's stories—and of God's amazing plan to redeem the people he loves.

## Bring It Home: Practical Ways to Partner with Families

Partnering with home is a key ingredient of DWELL. At home, parents and guardians continue the exploration into God's story that begins each week in church. They take it further and deeper, weaving it into their life as a family. That's why we're excited about these great home connection resources.

### God's Big Story Cards

As a companion for DWELL, we've designed a set of God's Big Story cards that are similar in style to a popular trivia game. Using a die and cards that are organized with the same symbols and approach used in Dwell, families will grow together as they retell the story together or respond in prayer, wonder, and praise to God's story.

Families can use God's Big Story cards to take a closer look at individual parts of God's story or even to walk through the whole narrative of Scripture together.

### Dive Devotions

At the Dive level DWELL includes a devotional book for each young teen to use at home. Designed with middle schoolers in mind, these books include reflections to help personalize the Bible story and doctrine discussed at church and offer challenges that nudge young teens to apply their faith in everyday life situations.

### Home Connections

DWELL also includes easy ways to help you connect with parents and guardians through take home papers and printable notes that you can send home to families at the beginning of each unit.

### Music CD

For grades K-5, we've provided great music that enhances the DWELL approach to God's story—including songs written to help kids memorize key Scripture passages. Singing Scripture awakens a different part of children's brains, helping them to remember specific parts of the story.

Families can purchase a CD with all of the songs from DWELL to continue the learning at home. Or they can download individual songs (including Memory Challenge Scripture songs) at [www.DwellCurriculum.org/music](http://www.DwellCurriculum.org/music).



## Teaching the Way Kids Learn

It's a fact: people learn differently. If *what* we teach is going to impact kids, we need to pay attention to *how* we teach. That's why every activity in DWELL was planned with the eight different learning styles (based on Howard Gardner's multiple intelligences theory) in mind. One quick glance at the icons we've included for every step and you'll know which learning styles an activity taps into the most. Children who are

### **Word Smart**

learn best through verbal activities (listening, reading, or speaking), including discussions, worksheets, writing, reading, storytelling, and word games.

### **Number Smart**

learn best by exploring patterns and relationships through activities such as problem solving, logic puzzles or games, making charts and graphs, or putting things in sequence.

### **Picture Smart**

learn best by visualizing concepts. These kids enjoy viewing maps, slides, pictures, videos, and diagrams; making jigsaw puzzles; and expressing their ideas with shape, color, and design.

### **Body Smart**

learn best by using their bodies, acting things out, using puppets, moving— anything hands-on.

### **Music Smart**

learn best through sound, music, and rhythm—playing musical instruments, writing their own songs and raps, listening to recordings, singing, and so on.

### **People Smart**

learn best through doing things with others, cooperating and working in small or large groups, role playing, conversations, brainstorming, and other interactive exercises.

### **Self Smart**

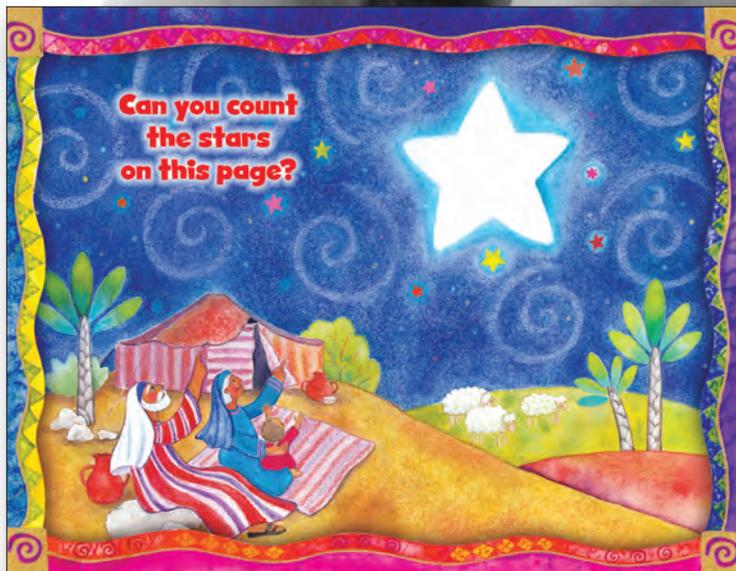
learn best by working independently through such things as writing in a journal, meditating, reading, and reflecting.

### **Earth Smart**

learn best through activities connected to living things and natural phenomena, through nature walks, examining plants and animals, nature experiments, and activities that focus on ecology.

—The ideas on this page are based on material from the following resources: *Multiple Intelligences in the Classroom* by Thomas Armstrong, © 2000, and a chart prepared by Donald L. Griggs, Livermore, California.

For more information on learning styles—and a fun quiz you can give your kids to find out how they learn best—visit [www.DwellCurriculum.org/downloads](http://www.DwellCurriculum.org/downloads).



## Make Memories That Last a Lifetime

Brain research tells us that information makes a lasting impression if it was understood, relevant, and connected to the learner on an emotional level. In DWELL kids don't just hear God's story, they experience it as they Imagine, Wonder, Marvel, and Dive into Scripture. Because studies show that one of the best ways to remember something is to practice and repeat it, every session in DWELL includes time for kids to retell the story through art, drama, sharing, games, and more.

Studies also show that the more of our senses that are engaged in learning, the more likely we are to remember something. Ever had a song get stuck in your head? Music makes the tune—and the lyrics—hard to forget. When we put together the list of key passages for the DWELL Memory Challenge plan, we also looked for songs with the text of each Scripture passage we wanted kids to know. In fact, setting Scripture to music was so important to us that in cases where we couldn't find a song, we found a composer to create one for us! Singing Scripture makes memorizing fun and easy, and—most important—makes it stick in your head (and your heart!) for a long, long time.

To discover what Scripture passages kids will learn during the DWELL years, see [www.Dwellcurriculum.org/scope-and-sequence](http://www.Dwellcurriculum.org/scope-and-sequence).

## Helping Kids Grow

Dwell leaders are men and women who embrace this vision:

### **DWELL Leaders . . . Nurture Kids' Faith**

DWELL leaders listen to kids. They create an environment where kids can ask questions, wonder about God, and discover something new. This faith nurturing approach takes DWELL beyond Bible basics to focus on growing a faith that will last a lifetime.

### **DWELL Leaders . . . Make God's Story Personal**

With DWELL, leaders move beyond just telling God's story. They're encouraged to help kids live into God's story, relating God's story to their own lives. That's when the story begins to make a difference in kids' lives.

DWELL leaders do this, in part, by sharing their own doubts and questions, their own responses to God's story, and what God is doing in their own lives. As leaders share their faith, kids get to see what living in faith really looks like.

### **DWELL Leaders . . . Thrive with Training**

For some leaders, the nurturing role comes naturally. For others, it develops over time as they gain confidence through experience and get to know the kids in their group. In both cases, leaders benefit from training that helps them understand their role and serve more effectively.

Encourage your leaders to visit the DWELL website, [www.DwellCurriculum.org](http://www.DwellCurriculum.org), where they'll find a selection of short, interactive training modules on topics like their role as a DWELL leader, discipline strategies, including kids with disabilities, telling great stories, and praying with kids. You'll also find the "support" section of the website helpful in planning leadership events for your whole team.

Along with web training, you'll want to give each leader a copy of *Dwelling: Helping Kids Find a Place in God's Story*, a book that provides advice and ideas for DWELL leaders ([www.FaithAliveResources.org](http://www.FaithAliveResources.org)).

### **DWELL Leaders . . . Learn as They Lead**

Each DWELL leader's guide includes "Re★formed" tips that point out some of the ways DWELL embodies the Reformed/Presbyterian perspective. With each session, leaders discover why theology *does* matter, even for kids! These tips, along with the Reflection section at the beginning of each session, will help leaders teach in a way that's consistent with the beliefs of your church while helping them grow in their own faith.

### **Finding and Preparing Leaders**

Where will you find all the leaders you need this season? Don't panic! God is already at work, preparing the hearts of men and women for their role in nurturing the faith of your kids.

Here are a few suggestions for enlisting a team of dedicated volunteers:

1. Start with your current group of children's ministry leaders or Sunday school teachers. How open are they to leading for another year and trying a new approach with DWELL?
2. Look for the people in your church who show kindness to kids—who greet them with smiles and make them feel welcome. Notice people who walk with God and are comfortable talking about their faith.
3. Talk about DWELL with parents and grandparents. Invite them to expand their nurturing role beyond their family to make a difference in the lives of other children too.
4. Prepare a job description to give to potential leaders as they pray about the opportunity to serve. A job description might include
  - praying for the children in your group.
  - making your group a safe and caring place where kids can thrive and grow.



- preparing well each time you lead.
  - being willing to share stories from your own faith journey with the kids you lead.
  - making a year-long commitment to the ministry.
  - attending DWELL orientation and leaders' meetings.
  - attending faithfully (and arranging for a substitute when absent).
  - expecting your faith to grow along with kids' faith.
5. When you've compiled a list of potential leaders, talk with each one personally or by phone. Describe DWELL and explain why you think they'd make a great leader. Give them a job description and a photocopy of pages 4 and 5 of this booklet. Ask them to pray for God's direction, and tell them you'll check back with them in a week.
  6. As leaders agree to serve, thank them for taking on this important role! Pledge your support and prayer. Set up a time when you can give them their DWELL leader's materials and answer any questions they might have.
  7. When you have most of your leaders in place, schedule a beginning-of-the-season meeting. Visit [www.DwellCurriculum.org](http://www.DwellCurriculum.org) to find ideas for introducing everyone to DWELL and preparing them for their ministry role.
  8. Make it a priority to encourage your DWELL team throughout the season. Here are a few suggestions:
    - Mention something good you've heard or noticed about their group.
    - Send them a short note of encouragement.
    - Twice a year, gather the team for enrichment activities. Plan these during regular meeting times so that availability isn't an issue.
    - Plan celebrations once or twice a year that are fun and full of food and laughter.
    - Organize a children's ministry Sunday to give the congregation a chance to show its appreciation. During the worship service have the leaders stand as the congregation reads a litany to commission them or to thank them for their love and dedication (see pages 34-35 for possible readings).



## Understanding the Whole Story (Scope and Sequence)

DWELL is intentionally crafted as an ongoing journey in God’s story. Each year builds on the previous one—from preschool all the way through grade 8. In age-appropriate ways, children are introduced to beautiful simplicity, growing complexity, and deeper mystery.

The chart below shows the overall flow of the curriculum and how all the pieces fit together.

<b>Play (Preschool)</b>
Based on 36 stories from Genesis through Acts, Play leads you and the four- and five-year-olds in your Sunday school, home school, preschool, or daycare on a joyful discovery of God’s love.

<b>YEAR 1 Units</b>	<b>Imagine (Grades K-1)</b>	<b>Wonder (Grades 2-3)</b>	<b>Marvel (Grades 4-5)</b>	<b>Dive (Grades 6-8)</b>
Unit 1	Imagine Being Part of God’s Family	Wonder About God’s Amazing Plan	Marvel at God’s Love	What Do I Do When Things Fall Apart?
Unit 2	Imagine Following God’s Directions	Wonder About God’s Daring Mission	Marvel at God’s Mercy	What’s the Covenant All About?
Unit 3	Imagine Meeting Jesus	Wonder About Jesus’ Surprising Power	Marvel at the Spirit’s Power	Who Is God?
Unit 4	Imagine Walking with Jesus	Wonder About Jesus’ Loving Care	Marvel at the Spirit’s Work	Who Is Jesus?
Unit 5	Imagine God’s Incredible Rescue Plan	Wonder About Jesus’ Incredible Love	Marvel at God’s New Beginnings	Who Is the Holy Spirit?
Unit 6	Imagine Seeing God’s Power	Wonder About the Holy Spirit’s Life-Changing Power	Marvel at God’s Protection	What Is the Church?

<b>YEAR 2 Units</b>	<b>Imagine (Grades K-1)</b>	<b>Wonder (Grades 2-3)</b>	<b>Marvel (Grades 4-5)</b>	<b>Dive (Grades 6-8)</b>
Unit 1	Imagine Trusting God	Wonder About God’s Never-Ending Love for Creation	Marvel at God’s Faithfulness	What Is Being a Christian All About?
Unit 2	Imagine Working for God	Wonder About God’s Growing Family	Marvel at God’s Wisdom and Strength	What’s With All the Rules?
Unit 3	Imagine Seeing Jesus Do Great Things	Wonder About God’s Extraordinary Plan for Ordinary People	Marvel at God’s Message	Can’t We All Just Get Along?
Unit 4	Imagine Seeing Jesus’ Power	Wonder About God’s Powerful Plans	Marvel at God’s Staying Power	Who’s Number 1?
Unit 5	Imagine God Creating Everything	Wonder About God’s Surprising Protection	Marvel at God’s Persistence	Does What I Do Make a Difference?
Unit 6	Imagine Jesus Caring for Us	Wonder About God’s Growing Kingdom	Marvel at God’s Plan	What Do I Say When I Pray?

<b>YEAR 3 Units Dive (Grades 6-8)</b>		
Unit 1 Worship	Unit 3 Prayer	Unit 5 Bible Reading
Unit 2 Justice	Unit 4 Stewardship	Unit 6 Missional Living

## Play

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
1. God Made the World	Genesis 1:1-25	God made the world beautiful and good and filled it with wonderful animals, fish, and birds.
2. God Made People	Genesis 1:26-31; 2:18-25	People are the most special part of God's creation.
3. Adam and Eve Disobey God	Genesis 3	Adam and Eve disobeyed God.
4. Noah Obeys God	Selections from Genesis 6-9	God saved Noah and his family.
5. Abraham and Sarah Listen and Obey	Genesis 12:1-9	Abraham listened to God and obeyed.
6. God Takes Care of Joseph	Genesis 37-41	God took good care of Joseph.
7. Joseph Helps His Brothers	Selected passages from Genesis 42-46	God took care of Joseph and his brothers.
8. Moses: Baby in a Basket	Exodus 2:1-10	God watched over baby Moses and kept him safe.
9. Moses - The Exodus	Exodus 14:15-21	God is powerful.
10. Moses - Manna	Exodus 16; Numbers 11:7-9	God gave the Israelites food.
11. Joshua and the Tall Wall	Joshua 6:1-21	God can do amazing things.
12. A Baby for Hannah	1 Samuel 1	God hears our prayers.
13. Samuel Listens	1 Samuel 3:1-18	God talked to Samuel; Samuel listened.
14. David and Goliath	1 Samuel 17	David trusted in God's power.
15. Elisha and the Widow's Oil	2 Kings 4:1-7	God helped the widow and her sons.
16. Elisha and Naaman	2 Kings 5:1-16	God made Naaman well.
17. Jonah and the Giant Fish	Jonah 1-3	God is with us—always and everywhere.
18. Daniel	Daniel 6	God is with us—always and everywhere.
19. Jesus Is Born	Luke 2:1-20	We celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas.
20. A Visit from the Maji	Matthew 2:1-12	We want to worship Jesus.
21. Anna Waits and Waits!	Luke 2:36-38	We want to worship Jesus.
22. Jesus Calls His Disciples	Mark 1:16-18; 2:13, 14	Jesus wants us to be his friends and helpers.

<b>Session</b>	<b>Bible Passage</b>	<b>Summary</b>
23. Jesus Heals a Little Boy	John 4:43-53	Jesus made the little boy well again.
24. Jesus Heals a Man Who Couldn't Walk	Mark 2:1-13	Jesus made the man walk again.
25. Jesus Calms the Storm	Matthew 8:23-27	Jesus is more powerful than storms.
26. Jesus Feeds a Big Crowd	John 6:1-14	Jesus loves and cares for hungry people.
27. Jesus Heals Ten Sick Men	Luke 17:11-19	Jesus wants us to thank him for everything he's given us.
28. Jesus Heals a Man Who Couldn't See	Mark 8:22-26	Jesus loves and cares for people who can't see.
29. Jesus and the Children	Mark 10:13-16	Jesus loves children.
30. Zacchaeus	Luke 19:1-10	Jesus loves us—always.
31. Palm Sunday	Mark 11:1-10	We praise Jesus.
32. Easter	John 20:11-18	Jesus died for our sins, but God brought him back to life.
33. Jesus Changes Paul	Acts 9:1-20	Jesus changed Paul from an enemy into a friend.
34. Paul and the Wall	Acts 9:20-25	Jesus took care of Paul when he was in trouble.
35. Escape!	Acts 23:12-35	God gives us people to love us and help us.
36. Shipwreck	Acts 27	Jesus takes care of us, even in frightening times.

## Imagine | Year 1

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 1: Imagine . . . Being Part of God's Family</b>		
1. Abraham and Sarah	Genesis 12-13	Abraham and Sarah belonged to God; we belong to God too.
2. The Birth of Isaac	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7	God can do anything. God promised to give Abraham and Sarah a son, and God did. We can trust God's promises to us too.
3. Rebekah and Isaac	Genesis 24	God cared for Rebekah and Isaac. God cares for us too.
4. Jacob and Esau	Genesis 27	Jacob said and did something wrong. But he still belonged to God. Even when we make God unhappy, God forgives us and loves us.
5. Baby Moses	Exodus 2:1-10	God protected baby Moses; God protects us when we are afraid.
6. Moses and the Burning Bush	Exodus 2:11- Exodus 4	Moses obeyed God; we must obey God too.
<b>Unit 2: Imagine . . . Following God's Directions</b>		
1. Exodus	Selections from Exodus 12-15	God's people praise and thank God for doing so much for them.
2. Manna	Exodus 16; Numbers 11:7-8	God's people trust God for their daily food.
3. Ten Commandments	Exodus 19; 20; 31:18	God's people love God and love each other.
4. Golden Calf	Exodus 32	Sometimes God's people disobey the rule to love God.
5. Ruth: The Choice	Ruth 1:1-18	We are to love God and show kindness to others as Ruth did.
6. Ruth: Blessings	Ruth 1:19 - Ruth 4	God was good to Ruth; God is good to us too.
<b>Unit 3: Imagine . . . Meeting Jesus</b>		
1. Mary Learns About Jesus	Luke 1:26-38	Mary learned she would be Jesus' mother.
2. Shepherds Learn About Jesus	Luke 2:1-20	The shepherds learned that Jesus the Savior was born in Bethlehem.
3. Simeon and Anna Learn About Jesus	Luke 2:21-38	Simeon and Anna learned that God kept the wonderful promise to send a Savior.
4. The Magi Learn About Jesus	Matthew 2:1-12	The Magi learned about Jesus' birth and traveled far to worship him.
5. People in the Temple Learn About Jesus	Luke 2:41-52	People in the temple learned that Jesus was God's Son.
6. Peter Learns About Jesus	Matthew 14:22-23	Peter learned to trust Jesus; Jesus wants us to trust him too.

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 4: Imagine . . . Walking with Jesus</b>		
1. People at a Party Learn About Jesus	John 2:1-11	The people at the wedding learned that Jesus is able to do wonderful things called miracles.
2. A Man Who Can't Walk Learns About Jesus	Luke 5:17-26	The man who couldn't walk learned that Jesus is able to make us well.
3. A Little Girl Learns About Jesus	Mark 5:21-24, 35-43	A little girl learned that Jesus has power to bring dead people back to life.
4. Children Learn About Jesus	Mark 10:13-16	Children learned that Jesus loves them.
5. Mary and Martha Learn About Jesus	Luke 10:38-42	Mary and Martha learn how important it is to listen to Jesus.
6. Zacchaeus Learns About Jesus	Luke 19:1-10	Zacchaeus learned that Jesus loves us even though we sometimes do bad things.
<b>Unit 5: Imagine . . . God's Incredible Rescue Plan</b>		
Easter: Jesus Is Alive!	Matthew 28	Like Jesus' friends at the tomb, we are happy that Jesus is alive.
1. Noah Obeys God	Genesis 6-7	Noah obeyed God's command to build an ark.
2. God Saves Noah	Genesis 8:1-9:1	God saved Noah and his family from the flood.
3. Rahab Believes in God	Joshua 2	Rahab believed in God and helped God's people.
4. God Saves Rahab	Joshua 6	God saved Rahab and her family, and they became part of God's people.
5. Gideon Obeys God	Selections from Judges 6-7	God asked Gideon to lead God's people, and Gideon obeyed.
<b>Unit 6: Imagine . . . Seeing God's Power</b>		
1. Elijah Prays to God	1 Kings 18:16-39	God heard Elijah and answered his prayer.
2. God Heals Naaman	2 Kings 5:1-16	Naaman obeyed God, and God healed his leprosy.
3. Jonah Disobeys God	Jonah 1-2	God is unhappy when people do not obey.
4. God Forgives Nineveh	Jonah 3-4	God wanted Jonah and the people of Nineveh to feel sorry for disobeying and to obey.
5. God Saves Three Obedient Friends	Daniel 3	Three friends faced great danger to obey God, and God saved them.
6. God Saves Daniel	Daniel 6	Although Daniel faced great danger, he obeyed God, and God saved him.

## Imagine | Year 2

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 1: Imagine . . . Trusting God</b>		
1. God Cares for Joseph	Genesis 37	God took care of Joseph.
2. Joseph Trusts God	Genesis 41:41 - Genesis 45	Joseph trusted God to care for him and his family.
3. Hannah Prays to God	1 Samuel 1:9-2:11	Hannah trusted God, and God answered her prayer.
4. Samuel Listened to God	1 Samuel 3	Samuel listened to God, and God was with him.
5. David, a Good Shepherd	1 Samuel 17:34-37; Psalm 23	God loves us and protects us like a shepherd cares for his sheep.
6. David Trusts God	1 Samuel 17	David trusted God to save him from Goliath.
<b>Unit 2: Imagine . . . Working for God</b>		
1. Jesus Changed Paul	Acts 9:1-19	Jesus changed Paul from an enemy to a friend.
2. Jesus Kept Paul Safe	Acts 9:20-31	Jesus kept Paul safe so he could tell others about Jesus.
3. Jesus Sent Paul Out	Acts 16:11-40	Paul helped the jailer believe in Jesus.
4. Jesus Helped Paul Escape	Acts 23	Jesus used Paul's nephew to help Paul escape.
5. Jesus Keeps Everyone Safe	Acts 27	Paul trusted Jesus to care for him and everyone on the ship through the storm.
6. Jesus Helps Paul in Malta	Acts 28:1-16	Jesus protected Paul and used him to heal many people.
<b>Unit 3: Imagine . . . Seeing Jesus Do Great Things</b>		
Christmas: Angels and Shepherds Welcome Jesus	Luke 2:1-20	The angels and shepherds praised God for sending Jesus.
1. Matthew Follows Jesus	Luke 5:27-32	Jesus called Matthew, and Matthew followed him.
2. A Crowd Praises God	Luke 7:11-17	Jesus made a widow's son alive again, and people praised God.
3. Jesus and a Thankful Man	Luke 17:11-19	Jesus healed ten sick men, but only one said thank you.
4. Jesus Heals a Man Who Couldn't See	Luke 18:35-43	Jesus healed a man who couldn't see, and the man praised God.
5. Mary Honors Jesus	John 12:1-11	Mary honored Jesus by giving him a beautiful gift.

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 4: Imagine . . . Seeing Jesus' Power</b>		
1. A Crowd Honors Jesus	Matthew 21:1-17	Grown-ups and children honored King Jesus with a parade of praise.
2. Jesus Dies	John 18-19	Jesus died for us.
3. Jesus Is Alive!	John 20:1-18; Acts 1:1-9	Jesus is alive again and will always be with us.
4. A Man Jumps for Joy	Acts 3:1-16	Jesus healed a man who couldn't walk, and the happy man praised God.
5. Peter and Tabitha	Acts 9:36-43	When Jesus made Tabitha alive again, many people believed in him.
6. Peter Is Rescued	Acts 12:1-19	Peter's friends prayed, and Jesus helped Peter escape from prison.
<b>Unit 5: Imagine . . . God Creating Everything</b>		
1. Night and Day	Genesis 1:1-5, 14-19	God gives us day and night.
2. Land and Water	Genesis 1:6-13	God gives us land, water, and plants.
3. Fish, Birds, and Animals	Genesis 1:20-25	God gives us fish, birds, and animals.
4. People	Genesis 1:26-31; 2:1-2, 8-9, 15-25	God created Adam and Eve and commanded them to care for the world.
5. Taking Care of God's World	Genesis 1:28; 2:15	We must take good care of God's world.
6. Adam and Eve Disobey	Genesis 3	God forgives us when we are sorry for disobeying.
<b>Unit 6: Imagine . . . Jesus Caring for Us</b>		
1. Feeding a Great Crowd	John 6:1-15	Jesus cares for hungry people.
2. Calming a Storm	Matthew 8:23-26	Jesus cares for frightened people.
3. Healing a Sick Boy	John 4:46-54	Jesus cares for sick people.
4. Comforting a Friend	John 11:1-45	Jesus cares about people who are sad.
5. Blessing the Children	Mark 10:13-16	Jesus cares for children.
6. Caring for His Lambs	John 10:14-15; Luke 15:1-7	Jesus is the good shepherd who loves us and cares for us.

## Wonder | Year 1

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 1: Wonder . . . About God’s Amazing Plan</b>		
1. The Birth of John the Baptist	Luke 1:5-25, 57-60, 80	God surprised Zechariah and Elizabeth with the promise of a special baby.
2. The Angel’s Message	Luke 1:26-38, 46-56	God surprised Mary with the promise of a baby—Jesus, the Messiah.
3. Jesus Is Born!	Luke 2:1-20	God surprised the world with the birth of the Savior.
4. Simeon and Anna	Luke 2:21-38	Simeon and Anna gladly welcomed the Savior.
5. Jesus in the Temple	Luke 2:41-52	We worship Jesus because he is God’s own Son.
6. Jesus Is Baptized	Luke 3:1-22	We worship Jesus, whose baptism shows he is God’s own Son.
<b>Unit 2: Wonder . . . About God’s Daring Mission</b>		
1. Jesus Is Tempted	Luke 4:1-13	We worship Jesus, our Savior, who obeyed God and said no to Satan’s temptations.
2. Jesus Calls Peter	Luke 5:1-11	Jesus called Peter to follow him; he calls us to be his followers too.
3. Jesus Calls Matthew	Luke 5:27-22	Jesus calls even sinners like Matthew to follow him.
4. Jesus Heals a Man Who Couldn’t Walk	Luke 5:17-26	Jesus wants us to have faith in him—to trust him for everything.
5. Jesus Heals the Centurion’s Servant	Luke 7:1-10	Jesus wants us to trust him to heal our sicknesses.
6. Jesus Heals a Sick Woman	Luke 8:43-48	Jesus is pleased when we show our faith in him.
<b>Unit 3: Wonder . . . About Jesus’ Surprising Power</b>		
Christmas: Wise Men Worship Jesus	Matthew 2:1-12	When Jesus was born, the wise men came and worshiped him.
1. Jesus Calms the Storm	Mark 4:35-41	Jesus’ power over the storm shows he is God’s Son.
2. Jesus Heals a Little Girl	Mark 5:21-24, 35-43	Jesus’ power over death shows he is God’s Son.
3. Jesus Turns Water into Wine	John 2:1-11	Jesus’ power to do miracles shows that he is God’s Son.
4. Jesus Feeds Four Thousand People	Matthew 15:29-39	Jesus has compassion for hungry people.
5. Jesus Heals a Man Who Can’t See	Mark 8:22-26	Jesus has compassion for people with sicknesses and disabilities.

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 4: Wonder . . . About Jesus' Loving Care</b>		
1. Jesus Blesses the Children	Mark 10:13-16	Jesus cares about children; they're an important part of his church.
2. The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37	Jesus teaches us to care about each other.
3. Jesus and Two Sisters	Luke 10:38-42	Listening to Jesus is the most important and exciting part of belonging to him.
4. Jesus and Zacchaeus	Luke 19:1-10	Listening to Jesus means living for him.
5. Jesus and a Thankful Man	Luke 17:11-19	We want to thank Jesus for every good thing he has given us.
6. Jesus and a Thankful Woman	Luke 7:36-50	We want to thank Jesus for forgiving our sins.
<b>Unit 5: Wonder . . . About Jesus' Incredible Love</b>		
1. The Great Parade	Matthew 21:1-17	With the crowd on Palm Sunday, we welcome Jesus, our King.
2. The Footwashing	John 13:1-17	Jesus chose to humbly serve his people; he tells us to serve too.
3. A Sad Night	Matthew 26:31-46, 69-75	Although his friends left him, Jesus chose to face arrest and trial.
4. Jesus Died/Jesus Lives!	Matthew 27:27-66; 28:1-10	Jesus' resurrection changes fear and sadness to great joy and wonder.
5. On the Road to Emmaus	Luke 24:13-49	After his resurrection, Jesus surprised two disciples on the road to Emmaus.
6. Thomas, the Doubter	John 20:24-31	Even though we can't see Jesus, we believe he is alive today.
<b>Unit 6: Wonder . . . About the Holy Spirit's Life-Changing Power</b>		
1. Feed My Sheep	John 21:1-17	Even when we disappoint Jesus, he still loves us, forgives us, and gives us important things to do.
2. Jesus Goes Back to Heaven	Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11	Our risen Lord Jesus ascended to heaven, and he is still with us today.
3. Wind and Fire on Pentecost	Acts 2	At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled Jesus' disciples with power.
4. A Man Jumps for Joy	Acts 3:1-16	The Holy Spirit gave the apostles power to heal in Jesus' name.
5. Philip and the Man from Ethiopia	Acts 8:26-39	The Holy Spirit helped Jesus' followers bring the good news to all people.
6. Go Tell!	Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:6-11	Jesus commanded his followers to go and make disciples of all people.

## Wonder | Year 2

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 1: Wonder . . . About God’s Never-Ending Love for Creation</b>		
1. Creation: Skies and Seas, Rocks and Trees	Genesis 1:1-19	In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (days 1-4).
2. Creation: Owls and Octopuses, Panthers and People	Genesis 1:20-2:4	In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (days 5-7).
3. Creation: Taking Care of God’s World	Genesis 2:4-25	God created people special and gave them the world to care for.
4. Sin Spoils God’s World	Genesis 3	God’s perfect creation was spoiled when Adam and Eve disobeyed.
5. Cain and Abel	Genesis 4:1-16	Sin spoiled our love for God and for each other.
6. Rain and Rainbows	Genesis 6:5-9:17	God destroyed the sinful world, but saved Noah and his family.
<b>Unit 2: Wonder . . . About God’s Growing Family</b>		
1. The Tallest Tower	Genesis 11:1-9	When people got together to show off, God scattered them over the whole earth.
2. Abraham and Sarah Believe God’s Promises	Genesis 11:31-12:9	Abraham and Sarah believed God’s promises and moved to a new land, as God had told them to do.
3. God’s Promise Comes True	Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7	God’s promise to Abraham and Sarah came true when Isaac was born.
4. Isaac and Rebekah	Genesis 24	God continued to keep the promises made to Abraham by providing a wife for Isaac.
5. Jacob Steals the Blessing	Genesis 27; 28:15	God was faithful to Jacob even though Jacob lied to his father and stole the blessing.
6. God Blesses Jacob	Genesis 29:1-13; 30:25-30	God was faithful to Jacob and blessed him with a family and flocks.
<b>Unit 3: Wonder . . . About God’s Extraordinary Plan for Ordinary People</b>		
Christmas: Shepherds and Angels	Luke 2:8-20	Angels and shepherds praised God for sending Jesus, the promised Savior.
1. Joseph the Dreamer	Genesis 37; 39:1-2	When Joseph was frightened and alone, God was with him.
2. Joseph the Slave	Genesis 39:2-41:45	God was with Joseph in prison.
3. Joseph the Ruler	Genesis 41:46-46:34	God used Joseph to save Jacob’s family and to feed a troubled part of the world.
4. The Birth of Moses	Exodus 1:8-12, 22; 2:1-10	God saved baby Moses from wicked Pharaoh.
5. The Burning Bush	Exodus 2:11-4:31	God called Moses to lead the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt.

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 4: Wonder . . . About God's Powerful Plans</b>		
1. The Ten Plagues	Exodus 7-11	Our powerful God changed Pharaoh's mind by sending ten plagues.
2. The Exodus	Exodus 12-14	God set the people of Israel free.
3. Manna and Quail	Exodus 16	God provided for the Israelites' daily needs.
4. God's Law	Exodus 19-20	God gave the people of Israel rules for living.
5. The Golden Calf	Exodus 32	God's people forgot God's most important rule.
6. Exploring the Promised Land	Numbers 13-14	The people of Israel forgot to trust God's promise to bring them safely to Canaan.
<b>Unit 5: Wonder . . . About God's Surprising Protection</b>		
Easter: He Is Risen!	John 20	God raised Jesus from the dead.
1. Rahab and the Spies	Joshua 2	God used Rahab to help keep the spies safe.
2. Crossing the Jordan	Joshua 3-4	God brought the people of Israel across the river and into the promised land.
3. The Fall of Jericho	Joshua 5:13 - Joshua 6	God fought for Israel and gave the people victory over Jericho.
4. Deborah and Jael	Judges 4-5	God used Deborah and Jael to save the people of Israel from their enemies.
5. Gideon	Judges 6-7	God used Gideon, in spite of his weakness, to save the people of Israel from their enemies.
<b>Unit 6: Wonder . . . About God's Growing Kingdom</b>		
1. Samson	Judges 13-16	God used Samson, despite his sinfulness, to save the people of Israel from their enemies.
2. Ruth	Ruth 1-4	God blessed Ruth when she chose to become one of God's people.
3. Hannah	1 Samuel 1 - 2:10	God heard and answered Hannah's prayer.
4. Samuel	1 Samuel 3	God spoke to Samuel; Samuel listened and obeyed.
5. Saul	1 Samuel 8-10	God told Samuel to anoint Saul as king over God's people.
6. David	1 Samuel 16	God chose David the shepherd boy to be Israel's next king.

## Marvel | Year 1

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 1: Marvel . . . at God's Love</b>		
1. The Lost Sheep	Luke 15:1-7	Jesus is the good shepherd who searches for and finds the lost sheep.
2. The Lost Son	Luke 15:11-32	God is the loving Father who welcomes his lost children home.
3. The Great Banquet	Luke 14:15-24	God brings all sorts of people into the kingdom. We don't earn our way into God's kingdom; entry is a gift from God.
4. The Rich Fool	Luke 12:13-21	Jesus reminds us not to be greedy and to live for God rather than for things.
5. The Ten Virgins	Matthew 25:1-13	Jesus reminds us to be ready for the day when he will return to judge the world.
6. The Tenants	Luke 20:9-16	Jesus reminds us that he is God's own Son, sent to save sinful people and worthy of our love and respect.
<b>Unit 2: Marvel . . . at God's Mercy</b>		
1. The Unmerciful Servant	Matthew 18:21-35	Jesus explains that we must forgive each other as God has forgiven us.
2. Sheep and Goats	Matthew 25:31-46	Jesus teaches us that he views our helping others as helping him.
3. The Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37	Jesus teaches us who our neighbors are and that we should help those in need.
4. The Pharisee and the Tax Collector	Luke 18:9-14	Jesus teaches us to humbly ask God to forgive us and not to think we are better than others.
5. The Talents	Matthew 25:14-30	Jesus teaches us to use everything he's given us to serve him.
6. The Wise and Foolish Builders	Matthew 7:24-27	Jesus warns us that we should hear and obey his words.
<b>Unit 3: Marvel . . . at the Holy Spirit's Power</b>		
Christmas: A Promise Kept	Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Matthew 1:18-25	The Old Testament promise of a Savior was fulfilled at Christmas.
1. A Mountaintop Goodbye	Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:4-12	When Jesus ascended into heaven, he gave the church work to do and promised to always be with his people.
2. Peter at Pentecost	Acts 2:1-41	On Pentecost Jesus kept his promise and sent his Spirit to be with his people always.
3. In the Name of Jesus	Acts 3	By faith in the name of Jesus we are healed and renewed.
4. Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin	Acts 4:1-31	The power of the Spirit enables us to witness about Jesus with our words and with our lives.
5. The Fellowship of Believers	Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37	Jesus' Spirit filled his people with love and concern for each other.

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 4: Marvel . . . at the Holy Spirit's Work</b>		
1. Ananias and Sapphira	Acts 4:36-5:16	Members of the Christian community should be honest, sincere, and truthful and should not be concerned with being number one in the community.
2. Stephen's Story	Acts 6; 7:1, 51-8:4	The Holy Spirit gave Stephen the power to witness even when facing persecution and death.
3. Simon the Sorcerer	Acts 8:4-25	The Holy Spirit comes to those who believe in Jesus with all their hearts.
4. Dorcas	Acts 9:36-43	The Holy Spirit equips us to be true disciples and to minister in Jesus' name.
5. Peter's Vision	Acts 10:1-11:21	The Holy Spirit taught Peter that the church is for people of all nations.
6. Peter's Rescue	Acts 12:1-19	God listens to the prayers of believers.
<b>Unit 5: Marvel . . . at God's New Beginnings</b>		
Easter: Jesus Is Alive!	1 Corinthians 15:3-8	Jesus arose from the dead and appeared to many believers.
1. Saul's Conversion	Acts 9:1-31	Jesus chose Saul to become a missionary to all people.
2. The Blind Magician	Acts 13:1-12	The Holy Spirit chose Saul and Barnabas as the church's missionaries to bring the gospel to all people.
3. Lystra	Acts 14:8-20	Paul and Barnabas learned that the task of the church can be difficult and dangerous.
4. The Council at Jerusalem	Acts 15:1-35	The Holy Spirit taught the church that the gospel is for all people, not just the Jews.
5. A Stop in Philippi	Acts 16:11-40	Paul and Silas preached the good news about Jesus and brought salvation to two families.
<b>Unit 6: Marvel . . . at God's Protection</b>		
1. Riot in Ephesus!	Acts 19:8-41	Against strong opposition, Paul established the church in Ephesus.
2. Paul's Farewell	Acts 20:7-38	After three years of loving ministry, Paul said a painful farewell to the Christians in Ephesus.
3. The Brave Nephew	Acts 23	God used Paul's young nephew to rescue him from his enemies.
4. Paul on Trial	Acts 24-26	The Holy Spirit helped Paul use his trials to tell the good news about Jesus Christ.
5. Shipwreck and Malta	Acts 27:28:1-10	God saved Paul and all the people with him from being destroyed in a terrible storm and was with them on the island of Malta.
6. Rome	Acts 28:11-31	The Holy Spirit helped Paul to reach Rome and tell the good news about Jesus there.

## Marvel | Year 2

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 1: Marvel . . . at God's Faithfulness</b>		
1. David and Goliath	1 Samuel 17	By faith in the living God, David defeated the enemy of God's people.
2. David and Jonathan	1 Samuel 18-20	Through Jonathan's friendship God blessed David, the chosen king.
3. David and Saul	1 Samuel 23:7-29; 24	David respected Saul as God's anointed king and spared his life.
4. David and Mephibosheth	2 Samuel 4:4; 9	Because David had faith in God, David could show kindness to Mephibosheth.
5. David and Bathsheba	2 Samuel 11-12:15	David sinned, but he repented and God forgave him.
6. David and Absalom	Selections from 2 Samuel 15-18	God remained faithful to David and punished Absalom for rebelling against God's chosen king.
<b>Unit 2: Marvel . . . at God's Wisdom and Strength</b>		
1. Solomon the Wise	1 Kings 3; 4:29-34	Solomon built God a beautiful temple, but eventually Solomon strayed from God's commands.
2. Too Many Wives	1 Kings 6; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19	God gave Solomon wisdom, riches, and honor and allowed him to build a beautiful temple.
3. The Divided Kingdom	1 Kings 12	God divided David's kingdom into two parts: Israel and Judah. Both nations forgot about God.
4. Elijah and the Widow	1 Kings 16:29-17:24	God cares for people who trust in God's Word.
5. Elijah at Mt. Carmel	1 Kings 18	The people are reminded in a powerful way that God is the one true God.
6. God Strengthens Elijah	1 Kings 19	God strengthened Elijah when he felt discouraged and alone.
<b>Unit 3: Marvel . . . at God's Message</b>		
Christmas: Celebrate Jesus' Birth	Luke 2:1-20	Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the city of David.
1. The Stolen Vineyard	1 Kings 21	God judges wicked people, even kings.
2. Micaiah Tells the Truth	1 Kings 22:1-40	The prophet Micaiah dared to speak God's truth to wicked Ahab.
3. Elijah Taken Up to Heaven!	2 Kings 2:1-18	God gave Elisha power to continue the work Elijah did for God.
4. The Widow Who Needed Help	2 Kings 4:1-7	A poor widow trusted God to provide.
5. The Amazing Healing of Naaman	2 Kings 5	Naaman learned that healing is a gift from God.

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 4: Marvel . . . at God's Staying Power</b>		
1. Elisha and the Blind Soldiers	2 Kings 6:8-23	God protected the people of Israel and saved them from their enemies.
2. Joash Repairs the Temple	2 Kings 11-12	God preserved David's family line and used young King Joash to restore the temple.
3. The Fall of Samaria	2 Kings 17:1-23	After years of disobedience, God allowed the kingdom of Israel to be carried away by its enemies.
4. A Bully and a Threat	2 Kings 18-19	God blessed Hezekiah, the good and faithful king.
5. Lost and Found	2 Kings 22-23:30	King Josiah led his people back to worshipping God and obeying God's law.
6. Judah Taken Captive	2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles 36:11-2; Jeremiah 27:16-22	God punished the people of Judah as Israel had been punished.
<b>Unit 5: Marvel . . . at God's Persistence</b>		
Easter: Mary's Story	John 20:1-18	God used Mary Magdalene to tell the good news of Jesus' resurrection.
1. A Lesson for Jonah	Jonah 1-2	Jonah learned that God's love is for all nations.
2. Jonah Goes to Nineveh	Jonah 3-4	Jonah learned that God forgives those who repent.
3. A Strange Dream	Daniel 2	God helped Daniel interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream about the coming of God's powerful kingdom.
4. Three Friends and a Furnace	Daniel 3	Daniel's friends remained true to God and refused to worship the king's statue; they trusted God, who saved them.
5. A Proud King	Daniel 4	Proud Nebuchadnezzar learned that no king or ruler is greater or more powerful than God.
<b>Unit 6: Marvel . . . at God's Plan</b>		
1. Daniel and the Last Party	Daniel 5	Because Belshazzar did not honor and worship God, God took away his kingdom.
2. Daniel in the Lions' Den	Daniel 6	Daniel worshiped God alone; Daniel was close to God, and God saved him from the lions.
3. The Story of Esther (Part 1)	Esther 1-5:2	God prepared Esther and Mordecai to help save the Jewish people from destruction.
4. The Story of Esther (Part 2)	Esther 5-10	God used Esther and Mordecai to help save the Jewish people from destruction.
5. Home Again!	Ezra 1, 3	God brought the Jewish people back home to Jerusalem, where they rebuilt the temple.
6. New Walls, New People	Selections from Nehemiah 4-10	God remained faithful to the people, protecting them as they rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem.

## Dive | Year 1

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 1: What Do I Do When Things Fall Apart?</b>		
1. Belonging to Jesus	Acts 16:16-25; Romans 14:8 (Paul and Silas in Jail)	I find comfort in belonging to Jesus Christ. (Q&A 1)
2. What We Need to Know	Acts 16:25-40 (Paul and Silas/ Earthquake)	My heart knows three things that assure me I belong to Jesus. (Q&A 2)
3. In Need of Forgiveness	Genesis 4:1-16; Matthew 22:37-40 (Cain and Abel)	I know that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness, and that God is a forgiving God. (Q&A 3)
4. The Way We Are	Genesis 3 (The Fall)	No part of my life is free from sin. (Q&A 4-5)
5. Our Just and Loving God	Genesis 6-9 (Noah)	God is both just and merciful. (Q&A 6)
6. Jesus, Our Savior	Matthew 3:13-17; John 3:16; Luke 3:21-22 (Jesus' Baptism)	God loves us and gave us Jesus Christ, who saves us from our sins. (Q&A 7-8)
<b>Unit 2: What's the Covenant All About?</b>		
1. The Bible (Part 1)	Acts 8:26-40 (Philip and the Ethiopian Official)	The Bible tells the story of God's saving acts. (Q&A 9)
2. The Bible (Part 2)	Psalms 119:9-11, 97-105; 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (The Bible)	The Holy Spirit tells me the Bible is the true Word of God. (Q&A 10-12)
3. The Covenant Established	Gen. 8:15-19; 9:1-17; 12:17 (God's Covenant Made)	We are included in God's covenant promises. (Q&A 13-14)
4. The Covenant Renewed	Exodus 19; 20:1-21; 24:1-8 (Ten Commandments)	We keep the covenant by loving and obeying God. (Q&A 13-14)
5. The Covenant Extended	Acts 2 (Pentecost)	The Holy Spirit works in our hearts and lives to bring people to faith in Christ and include them in God's covenant. (Q&A 15-16)
6. The Covenant for You	John 4:1-42 (Samaritan Woman)	God's covenant promises are for us, and for all who believe in Jesus. (Q&A 17)
<b>Unit 3: Who Is God?</b>		
Christmas Victory!	Revelation 12 (The Dragon Slain)	We celebrate the birth of Jesus, who won the victory over Satan and saved his people.
1. What Is True Faith?	Mark 2:1-12 (Jesus Heals a Man Who Was Paralyzed)	True faith is a sure knowledge of God's promises and a firm trust that all my sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. (Q&A 18)
2. The Story of the Apostles' Creed	The Apostles' Creed	We believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Q&A 19-20)
3. God Is . . .	Acts 17:16-34 (Paul Preaches About an Unknown God)	God is One and yet three distinct persons, a divine community. (Q&A 20)
4. A Faithful Provider	Exodus 16; Psalm 8; John 6:35 (God Provides Manna in the Desert)	God, the almighty creator, is also my faithful Father, whom I can trust to provide whatever I need. (Q&A 21-22)
5. A Caring Creator	Selections from Genesis 37-50, especially 45:1-8 and 50:19-21 (Joseph)	God, our heavenly Father, takes care of and rules everything in our world. (Q&A 23)

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 4: Who Is Jesus?</b>		
1. Who Is Jesus?	Matthew 16:13-24 (Peter's Declaration)	We confess that Jesus Christ is Lord because Jesus is God's eternal Son and our only Savior from sin. (Q&A 24)
2. Our Mediator	Genesis 28:10-22; John 1:43-51 (Jacob's Ladder)	Only Jesus, who is truly God and truly human, could become the go-between who makes us right with God. (Q&A 25-26)
3. Our Substitute	Isaiah 53; John 19:1-6 (Jesus' Trial)	In his life and death, Jesus suffered God's anger against sin so that we might never suffer such a severe judgment. (Q&A 27)
4. Our Savior	John 19:17-42 (Crucifixion)	Jesus took on the curse of sin and actually died, suffering the pains of hell, to free us from eternal death. (Q&A 28)
5. The Risen Lord	John 20 (Easter)	By rising from the dead, Jesus conquered death, won for us a new life, and guaranteed our glorious resurrection. (Q&A 29)
6. The Ascended King	Acts 1:3-11; John 10:29; 1 Cor. 12:7; Col.1:18; 1 John 2:1-2; Rev. 1:9-20 (Jesus Ascends into Heaven)	Jesus is in heaven at God's right hand, where he pleads for us, leads his church, and sends his Spirit to give us gifts to share the gospel. (Q&A 30)
<b>Unit 5: Who Is the Holy Spirit?</b>		
Easter Celebration!	John 11:25-26; Matthew 28:1-15	We worship our risen Lord, whose victory over death assures us of our own resurrection.
1. The Sheep and the Goats	Matthew 25:31-46 (Parable of the Sheep and the Goats)	One day Jesus will come to judge all people according to their works. (Q&A 31)
2. The New Creation	Isaiah 35; Revelation 21:1-7 (New Creation)	When Jesus returns as triumphant king, we will live with him in the new creation. (Q&A 32)
3. The Holy Spirit	John 14:15-31; Acts 2 (Pentecost)	The Holy Spirit is eternal God, given to me personally. (Q&A 33)
4. The Caring Community	Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11 (Unity in the Early Church/Ananias and Sapphira)	God calls me to use the gifts the Holy Spirit has given me to serve others. (Q&A 35)
5. The Holy Spirit at Work	Acts 10:1-48 (Peter and Cornelius)	The Holy Spirit leads us in the truth and equips us to carry out God's mission. (Q&A 34 and 36)
<b>Unit 6: What Is the Church?</b>		
1. The Church Is One	Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3 (Church in Antioch)	The Holy Spirit builds one church that includes believers of every time, place, race, and language. (Q&A 37)
2. Spirit-Led Leaders	Acts 15:1-35 (Council in Jerusalem)	Jesus is the head of the church, guiding us through the Word and Spirit and through those he calls to lead us in his truth. (Q&A 38)
3. Forgiven	John 8:1-11 (Jesus Forgives a Woman Caught in Adultery)	Because of Jesus' sacrifice, God forgives us for sinning and for our natural tendency to sin. (Q&A 39)
4. Life Goes On	John 11:1-46, 14:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (Lazarus Raised from the Dead)	Jesus brings new life now and will raise our bodies to live forever with him. (Q&A 40)
5. Only by Faith	Acts 9:1-22; Galatians 2:20 (Saul's Conversion)	Only by true faith in Jesus do we become right with God and receive everlasting life. (Q&A 41)
6. Only by Grace	Luke 7:36-50 (Woman Anoints Jesus' Feet)	It's not our obedience but Christ's goodness and obedience that make us right with God when we believe. (Q&A 42)

## Dive | Year 2

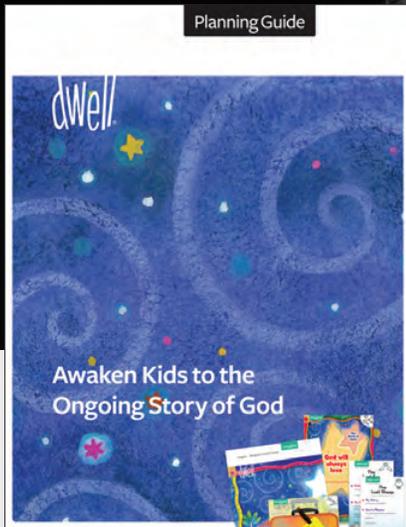
Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 1: What Is Being a Christian All About?</b>		
1. How Faith Begins	Acts 16:6-15 (Lydia)	The Holy Spirit creates faith in my heart by the gospel. (Q&A 43)
2. Signs and Seals of Grace	Exodus 12 (The Passover)	The sacraments are signs and seals that assure us we are saved. (Q&A 44-45)
3. A Promise from God	Acts 2:36-43; 8:26-38; 9:1-20; 10:23-36, 44-48; 16:13-15, 22-24 (Baptisms in Acts)	My baptism tells me that Christ's sacrifice is for me personally. (Q&A 46-47)
4. Remembering the Cross	Luke 22:7-23 (The Last Supper)	The Lord's Supper brings the blessings of Christ's sacrifice on the cross to me personally. (Q&A 48-49)
5. Our New Life	John 13:1-17 (The Foot Washing)	I show my thanks to God for salvation by living a new life of service to Christ. (Q&A 50-51)
6. Making Our New Life Real	Luke 19:1-10 (Jesus Meets Zacchaeus)	My new life becomes real as I turn away from sin and think and act in ways that show love for God and love for others. (Q&A 51-52)
<b>Unit 2: What's With All the Rules?</b>		
1. Look Up! Look Around!	Exodus 19:3-25; 20:1-17; Matthew 22:37-40; Romans 13:8-10 (Sinai, Summary of Law)	God's law teaches us what our relationship to God should be and how we should treat others. (Q&A 53-54)
2. Worship God Alone	Exodus 20:1-6; 32 (Golden Calf and Ten Commandments)	I'm called to trust, love, fear, and honor the one true God with all my heart, and to worship God alone. (Q&A 55-56)
3. Trust God Alone	Exodus 20:1-6; Numbers 13-14 (Spies Sent to Canaan)	I will not trust or worship any person, creature, or thing in place of God. (Q&A 55-56)
4. Honor the Name	Exodus 20:7; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:61; John 21:15-17 (Peter's Denial and Reinstatement)	I will praise God in everything I say and do, always speaking God's name reverently. (Q&A 57)
5. Remember the Day	Exodus 20:8; Mark 2:23-3:6; Luke 13:10-17 (Pharisees on the Sabbath)	I'm called to rest from daily work, so I will enjoy the gifts of God's creation and gather regularly with the church to worship God. (Q&A 58)
6. Staying Close to God	Psalms 23 (Summary of the First Table of the Law)	I have a loving relationship with God, which leads me to obey God's commands. (Q&A 54-58)
<b>Unit 3: Can't We All Just Get Along?</b>		
Christmas: Christmas Joy	Luke 1:26-56 (Mary's Song of Joy)	Mary's song reflects our own joy and praise for the birth of Jesus.
1. Honoring Parents	Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Ephesians 6:1-4 (Honoring Parents and Authorities)	I'm called to honor, love, and be loyal to my parents and all others who have authority over me. (Q&A 59)
2. Loving Others	Exodus 20:13; Luke 10:25-37 (The Good Samaritan, Love Your Neighbors)	I'm called to love others as I love myself and do nothing that would cause them harm or insult. (Q&A 60)
3. Honoring God with Our Bodies	Genesis 2:18-24; Exodus 20:14; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Philippians 4:8 (The Creation of People, Purity)	I'm called to keep myself pure and holy in body, mind, and soul and to treat others with dignity and respect. (Q&A 61)
4. Being Givers, not Takers	Exodus 20:15; Psalm 24:1; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9 (Stewardship and Generosity)	Rather than cheating or stealing from others, I'm called to do whatever I can for their good. (Q&A 62)
5. Telling the Truth	Exodus 20:16; John 14:6; James 3:1-12; 1 John 1:8-10 (Taming the Tongue/Telling the Truth)	Rather than hurting others by gossip and lying, I'm called to love the truth and speak it. (Q&A 63)

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 4: Who's Number 1?</b>		
1. Learning to Be Content	Exodus 20:17; Matthew 6:25-34; Luke 12:15; Philippians 4:11-13 (God Clothes the Grass of the Field)	I'm called to be content by trusting God for everything I need and avoiding greedy thoughts or desires. (Q&A 64)
2. Growing in Faith	Mark 10:17-30 (The Rich Young Ruler)	God's commandments let me know how sinful I am, how much I need Christ's forgiveness, and how I can live in a way that pleases God. (Q&A 65)
3. King of Kings	Mark 12:1-12 (The Parable of the Tenants)	God rules everyone in the world—both those who worship God and those who don't. (Q&A 66-67)
4. Following Jesus	Matthew 25:14-30 (Parable of the Talents)	I'm called to follow Jesus, trying to please him in every part of my life and telling others the good news of salvation in Christ. (Q&A 68)
5. Love All People	James 2:1-4, 8-9 (Show No Favoritism/Love All People)	I am called to love and respect all people because God created us all. (Q&A 69)
6. Respect Human Life	Matthew 18:1-7 (Jesus Teaches Compassion for the Helpless)	Life is a gift from God, so I'm called to care about the well-being of others, especially those who cannot care for themselves. (Q&A 70)
<b>Unit 5: Does What I Do Make a Difference?</b>		
Easter: We Want to See Jesus	Luke 24:13-35 (Easter: The Road to Emmaus)	Like the travelers on the road to Emmaus, we need to see Jesus as our risen Savior and Lord, the fulfillment of God's promises.
1. Working for the Lord	Acts 18:1-4; 2 Corinthians 11:26-28; Colossians 3:23; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 (The Importance of Work)	In all my work—even the dull tasks—I should do my very best so that I may honor my Lord. (Q&A 71)
2. Caring for God's World	Genesis 2:15, 19-20; Psalm 8 (Eden and the Naming of the Animals)	God expects me to respect all creatures and to help preserve the earth in good condition for future generations. (Q&A 72)
3. Why Pray?	Luke 11:9-13 (Ask, Seek, Knock)	Prayer is the most important way I can thank God and ask God for all that I need. (Q&A 73)
4. How to Pray	Luke 18:1-8 (Parable of the Judge and the Widow)	I should pray from the heart, believing that God will listen. (Q&A 74)
5. The Lord's Prayer	Luke 11:1-4 (The Lord's Prayer)	We learn how to pray by following Jesus' example in the Lord's Prayer. (Q&A 75-76)
<b>Unit 6: What Do I Say When I Pray?</b>		
1. Hallowed Be Your Name	Daniel 6 (Daniel in the Lions' Den)	In prayer, we ask God to help us to live so that all we think, say, and do honors and praises God. (Q&A 77)
2. Your Kingdom Come	Daniel 2:1-6, 24-45 (Nebuchadnezzar's Dream)	In prayer, we ask God to rule us so that we may obey and to bring God's kingdom to complete perfection. (Q&A 78)
3. Your Will Be Done	1 Kings 19:1-19 (God Appears to Elijah)	In prayer, we ask God to help us and all people to obey God's will. (Q&A 79)
4. Give Us Today Our Daily Bread	1 Kings 17:1-16 (Elijah and the Ravens)	In prayer, we learn to trust God as the source of everything good for all our daily needs. (Q&A 80)
5. Forgive Us Our Debts	Matthew 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:32 (Unmerciful Servant)	In prayer, we ask God to forgive us our sins, just as we forgive the sins of others. (Q&A 81)
6. Lead Us Not into Temptation	Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 2:18 (Jesus Is Tempted)	In prayer, we ask for strength to fight against sin and the devil, and we praise our all-powerful God, trusting that God hears our words. (Q&A 82-83)

## Dive | Year 3

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 1: Worship</b>		
1. Come, Now is the Time to Worship	Psalms 95:1-7; Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:42-47 (Being called by God to worship)	Through worship God calls us and forms us as his people.
2. Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon	Isaiah 6:1-6; Psalms 51 and 32 (Isaiah on holiness, need for confession)	When we gather before the holy God, we experience of our own sinfulness, confess our sins, and receive God's forgiveness.
3. Hearing the Word and Responding	Nehemiah 8:1-12 (The reading of the law)	When we gather together to worship, we hear God speak to us through his Word and the pastor's message.
4. The Sacraments in Worship	Joshua 3-4 (Crossing the Jordan)	Through the sacraments God shows us and assures us that we are his redeemed people.
5. Blessed to be a Blessing (Sending)	Genesis 12:2-3; Numbers 6:24-26 (Aaronic blessing)	In worship we receive God's blessing, that we might be a blessing to others.
6. Life as Worship	Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:17 (Paul on worship)	Corporate worship shapes us to worship God in all of our living.
<b>Unit 2: Justice</b>		
1. God Is Just	Micah 6:8; Psalm 72; Psalm 82; Isaiah 58:1-12 (OT visions of God as just)	God calls us to have a special care and regard for people who are poor, weak, and oppressed.
2. Overall pictures of Justice	1 Kings 21 (Ahab, Jezebel, and Naboth)	God requires that every person be treated fairly and receive his or her share in God's world.
3. Prejudice/Training Others as Neighbors	James 2:1-7 (James on favoritism)	The Bible teaches us to put aside our prejudice and treat others as our neighbors.
4. Violence	Matthew 26:46-56; John 18:36 (Jesus arrested, brought before Pilate)	Jesus teaches us to overcome violence by remaining peaceful—restraining people who are violent and bearing violence for the sake of God's kingdom.
5. Greed	Ecclesiastes 5:8-20 (Wisdom on giving to people who are poor)	The Bible teaches us that greed is harmful for our own lives and keeps us from sharing with others.
6. Stories About Justice and Living Justly	Amos 5:7, 10-15, 21-24 (Amos the prophet and Martin Luther King, Jr.)	God calls us to work for justice and against injustice.
<b>Unit 3: Prayer</b>		
Christmas: Waiting on God	Luke 2:22-38 (Simeon and Anna)	Simeon and Anna illustrate how in prayer we are waiting for God's help and salvation.
1. Who's Listening?	Matthew 26:36-41; Luke 11:11-13; Psalm 13; 2 Corinthians 12:6-10 (Jesus praying at Gethsemane)	Although we don't always understand the way God answers prayer, we can trust God's goodness and purpose.
2. Praying Our Emotions	1 Kings 19:1-18; portions of Psalms 63 and 56 (Elijah on Mt. Carmel, Psalms)	The Psalms show us that God knows us through and through, so we can tell him everything. The Psalms offer us inspired words to pray and inspire us to pray with confidence.
3. Praying Anywhere, Anytime	1 Thessalonians 5:17; Colossians 1:3-14; Philippians 1:3 (Paul on prayer)	God invites us to talk to him anytime and anywhere.
4. Praying for Others	Philippians 1:3, 9-11; Col. 1:3, 9-12; 1 Timothy 2:1-3 (Paul on prayer)	God calls us to pray for others and for the world.
5. Stories of the Transforming Power of Prayer	Acts 4: 23-31 and Acts 12:1-19 paired with contemporary stories (Peter and John before the Sanhedrin)	The Holy Spirit transforms our lives and the lives of others through prayer.

Session	Bible Passage	Summary
<b>Unit 4: Stewardship</b>		
1. It All Belongs to God	Psalm 24:1-2 (The earth is the Lord's)	The whole world belongs to God.
2. All Things Bright and Beautiful	Psalm 8 (The amazing creation we care for)	God created us to be stewards of the whole creation.
3. Time	Matthew 6:25-34 (Don't worry)	We should make good use of the time God gives us.
4. Talents	Matthew 25:19-30; Romans 12:1-8 (Parable of the talents)	In gratitude for all the gifts God has given us we want to use our talents and gifts for God's glory.
5. Treasure	Luke 12:13-21; 2 Cor. 9:6-10 (Parable of the rich fool)	Our possessions are given to us to enjoy and to share.
6. Stories of Stewardship	Acts 4:36-37; Acts 9:26-27; Acts 11:25-26; Acts 15:1-3, 36-41 (Barnabas' life)	Stories from the life of Barnabas and Paul along with stories from your faith community.
<b>Unit 5: Bible Reading</b>		
Easter: The Center of Our Faith	1 Corinthians 15:1-28, 55-58 (Paul on resurrection)	Christ's resurrection is the most important event in history and is critical for our salvation.
1. Why the Bible?	2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3: 16-17 (Paul on Scripture)	Through the Bible the Holy Spirit reveals who God is and God's plan for redeeming his creation. God also offers us salvation and shows us a new way to live in Christ.
2. Finding Your Way	Luke 24:13-27 (The road to Emmaus)	Jesus Christ is the center of the Bible's message, and everything in it points to him.
3. How to Read the Bible	Matthew 4:1-11 (Jesus tested in the wilderness)	We hear God speak most clearly in Scripture when we understand the author's meaning.
4. Making It a Habit	Psalm 119: 9-11; 105; 97-99 (Psalms on prayer)	To grow in our spiritual life, we need to make a habit of reading God's Word.
5. Stories of the Transforming Power of Scripture	Hebrews 4:12 paired with contemporary stories (The living, active word of God)	The Holy Spirit transforms our lives through the Scriptures.
<b>Unit 6: Missional Living</b>		
1. An Inside Out, Upside Down Community	Matthew 5:1-16 (The Beatitudes)	Living out our faith means joining in God's mission to be part of an inside out, upside down community.
2. A Worshiping Community	Isaiah 1:10-20 (Meaningless sacrifices)	Our worship is worthless and offensive if it is not joined to a commitment to justice and God's mission in the world.
3. A Caring Community	Acts 9:32-43 (Peter, Aeneas, and Dorcas)	As God's people we are called to care for each other in practical ways.
4. A Serving Community	Luke 10:25-37 (Parable of the good Samaritan)	As God's people we are called to show love, mercy, and compassion to others.
5. The Sharing Community	Acts 11:19-26; 12:25-13:3 (Paul and Barnabas share the good news)	The church cannot help telling others far and near the good news about Jesus!
6. Stories of the Inside Out, Upside Down Community	Colossians 1:3-14, along with stories from your faith community (Paul on prayer and thanksgiving)	God's people are a missional community.



## Planning for Dwell

Advance planning makes any job easier, which is why we've included this handy checklist. It will help you keep track of key responsibilities as you coordinate DWELL for your church.

*Note:* Starred items indicate tasks that should be finished one month before the start of your children's ministry season.

### Coordinators' Checklist

- \* \_\_\_ Develop or update your children's ministry or church education goals to reflect both the church's vision statement and DWELL curriculum goals.
- \* \_\_\_ Select your starting date, ending date, vacation Sundays, and dates for special programs like Christmas and Easter.
- \* \_\_\_ Estimate the number of children and young teens you expect to participate.
- \* \_\_\_ Estimate how much DWELL material you'll need for each level.
- \* \_\_\_ Decide how many God's Big Story sets you'll need for families with children in grades K-5 (one per family).
- \* \_\_\_ Decide on the budget for curriculum, supplies, leader enrichment, and other needs.
- \* \_\_\_ Order your DWELL materials four weeks before the beginning of each new unit, or place a standing order in the fall.
- \_\_\_ Develop a system for getting new DWELL materials into the hands of leaders, and plan a filing system for DWELL materials that can be reused.
- \_\_\_ Take inventory of supplies and restock as needed. Each room should have Bibles, scissors, glue, markers, crayons, a board or newsprint, and a CD player or MP3 player.
- \_\_\_ Develop a roster of leaders and children in each group.
- \_\_\_ Develop evaluation forms to be completed by older children, leaders, and parents halfway through the first year and at the end.

## **Planning for Leaders**

- \* \_\_\_ Pray for God to call DWELL leaders who have a passion for Christ and a love for children.
- \* \_\_\_ Decide how leaders will participate. Will a single leader be assigned to a group, or will a team of two or three leaders share leadership responsibilities?
- \* \_\_\_ Estimate the number of leaders needed. A ratio of one leader to every six to eight children is ideal for interaction and sharing.
- \* \_\_\_ Prepare a brief job description for each leadership role (see pp. 9-10).
- \* \_\_\_ Make a list of potential leaders based on criteria on p. 9, and approach each one personally (see p. 10).
- \* \_\_\_ Follow your church's abuse prevention policy for screening potential leaders.
- \* \_\_\_ Plan a kickoff leaders' meeting to orient your leaders to DWELL and prepare them for the upcoming season. Visit [www.DwellCurriculum.org](http://www.DwellCurriculum.org) for ideas and ongoing support.
- \* \_\_\_ Offer your leaders some basic guidelines on discipline.
- \* \_\_\_ Provide leaders with a folder that includes a list of the children in their group (if available), the location of their meeting space, information on supplies, a copy of the schedule, dates for leaders' meetings, emergency procedures for severe weather or fire, your church's abuse prevention policy, information about substitutes, attendance records, your expectations for memory work, and any other details you'd like to communicate.
- \* \_\_\_ Work with your pastor or worship team to plan a commissioning service to kick off the new season. See pages 34-35 for ideas.

## **Planning for Families**

- \_\_\_ Plan an event during which you can get families excited about what their child will be learning in DWELL, introduce and give them their God's Big Story set (you'll want to demonstrate a few rounds together too!), and share the Dive devotional for middle schoolers. For a family event online visit [Dwellcurriculum.org/downloads](http://Dwellcurriculum.org/downloads).
- \_\_\_ Prepare an invitation to the DWELL event. Publicize the date for the beginning of DWELL and set up a place in your church to register kids.
- \_\_\_ Promote DWELL often in your church newsletter or bulletin and plan ways to invite visitors and members of the community to participate.

## Celebrating a New Season of Faith Nurture

This kid-friendly litany is intended for use at the beginning of a new church school year. The two sections may stand alone or be used together as a prayer of illumination for learners and a commissioning for teachers and other leaders. The language is broad enough to include Sunday school, midweek programs, and small group ministries for children through adults. (For a printable file of this litany, visit [www.DwellCurriculum.org/downloads](http://www.DwellCurriculum.org/downloads).)

Each reading is short and incorporates simple songs that are often used in Sunday school. This makes it easy for children to serve as readers (as suggested below). You may also want to incorporate sign language and involve the children's choir as song leaders. The combination of peer readers, familiar words, and congregational participation should help young readers in the pew stay engaged.

*Note:* To make this litany even more kid-friendly, replace the NIV and TNIV Scripture references with NIV, a translation written at the fourth-grade reading level.

**Church education director, elder, or pastor:** Our faith is nurtured in community as we learn and worship together. Today we celebrate a new church school season as children, youth, and adults begin attending Sunday school, small groups, and midweek activities. We ask God to prepare our hearts to study the Bible and the creeds and confessions of the church. We commission our teachers and leaders for their ministry. Please stand as we invite God's Spirit to lead us forward on this journey of faith—transforming each of us into the likeness of Christ.

**Song:** "Open Our Eyes, Lord" (*Sing! A New Creation* 80, *Sing With Me* 179, *Worship and Rejoice* 491)

**Church education director:** As we begin this new season of learning, we turn our hearts to you, Lord.

**Congregation:** Lead us to explore the depths of your love,  
to be amazed by your wonders,  
to find joy in your promises,  
to experience your forgiveness,  
to grow in love for one another,  
to discover our gifts,  
and to serve you faithfully.

**Child leader 1:** Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see Jesus.

**Congregation:** Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. (*Heb. 12:2, NIV*)

**Child leader 2:** We want to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.

**Congregation:** In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. (*1 John 5:3*)

**Child leader 3:** Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen.

**Congregation:** For Jesus said,  
"My sheep listen to my voice;  
I know them, and they follow me.  
I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;  
no one will snatch them out of my hand." (*John 10:27-28*)

**Child leader 4:** Open our eyes, Lord. We want to see Jesus.



**Congregation:** No one's ears have ever heard of a God like you.  
No one's eyes have ever seen a God who is greater than you.  
No God but you acts for the good of those who trust in him. (*Isa.*  
*64:4, NIrV*)

**Church education director:** Lead us this year to grow in the grace  
and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever!  
Amen. (*2 Pet. 3:18*)

**Song:** "Step by Step" (*Sing! A New Creation 17, Sing With Me 12, Worship and Rejoice 494, Lift  
Up Your Hearts, 743*)

[*Sunday school teachers and ministry leaders stand as the rest of the congregation is seated.*]

**Church education director, elder, or pastor:** As followers of Christ, we are lifelong learners called to make disciples. Some are gifted by the Spirit to serve as teachers and leaders, nurturing the faith of others. We now commission you for the ministry of faith nurture. Do you believe that God has called you to teach or lead, and do you trust God to equip you for this task?

**Teachers/leaders:** I do.

**Church education director, elder, or pastor:** Will you seek to remain in Christ by depending on his grace and cultivating your relationship with God through times of prayer, Bible study, and worship?

**Teachers/leaders:** I will.

**Church education director, elder, or pastor:** Will you strive to teach the Word of God with passion and joy, to live the lessons you share, and to grow in faith as you serve?

**Teachers/leaders:** I will.

**Church education director:** Please stand as together we pray for the teachers and leaders we have commissioned.

**Congregation:** Loving God, you are the source of life and the giver of faith. Thank you for calling these servants of yours to strengthen the faith of others. Please lead them to depend on your grace, to walk in step with your Spirit, and to seek wisdom for the journey. Through Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

DWELL<sup>®</sup>

## Step into God's Story

God is writing the story of the world, and he's been writing it for thousands of years.

It's a love story. But it's not a sappy, predictable love story . . . it's full of twists and turns you'd never expect—action, betrayal, hope, and redemption.

And it's not even mainly about people. It's about God . . . and God's love for the world.

God's story is going on every day, all around us—and in us. We can live into and out of God's story right now . . . no matter where we are or what we're doing.

We can DWELL in God's story.



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