

## God's Big Story for P<mark>reschoolers</mark>

Introduction



## Let's PLAY!

Play is the preschool level of the *Dwell* curriculum. Based on 36 stories from Genesis through Acts, Play leads you and the four- and five-year-olds in your group on a joyful discovery of God's love.

All you need is the Play resource kit, a set of colorful take-home story cards for each child, a few common craft supplies, and a space to meet! You'll love the way Play encourages preschoolers to respond with faith to the God who loves and cares for them.

## The Play resource kit includes

- 36 session plans with clear, easy-to-follow lesson outlines, materials lists, and teaching tips.
- one sample set of 36 take-home story cards.
- full-color leader's resources to use in your sessions.
- reproducible pages with patterns, pictures, and story figures.
- a *Sing With Me Preschool Songs* CD with 22 kid-friendly songs.

# As part of the *Dwell* curriculum, Play includes

- wondering questions, which invite learners to dwell in God's story as they consider the people in the story, the choices they made, and how God was at work in their lives.
- Re ★ formed tips, indicating that every story is taught from a Reformed, God-centered perspective, which views the

Bible primarily as the story about God and his love for us—not simply biblical heroes or morals.

- multiple intelligence tips that can help you tune your lessons to the various ways children learn.
- access to the *Dwell at Home* family of resources designed to support faith formation at home.

You also have the option to subscribe to *Dwell Digital*, which gives your teachers access to all leader materials on any device at any time. For more information, see *DwellCurriculum.org*.

Here are the 36 stories included in Play:

## Old Testament Stories

- 1. God Made the World
- 2. God Made People
- 3. Adam and Eve Disobey
- 4. Noah Obeys God
- 5. Abraham and Sarah Obey God
- 6. God Takes Care of Joseph
- 7. Joseph Helps His Brothers
- 8. Moses: From Basket to Palace
- 9. Moses: Exodus
- 10. Moses: Manna in the Desert
- 11. Joshua and the Tall Wall
- 12. Hannah's Prayer
- 13. Samuel Listens
- 14. David and Goliath 15. Elisha and the Widow's Oil
- 16. Elisha and Naaman
- 17. Jonah and the Giant Fish
- 18. Daniel and the Lions

## **New Testament Stories**

19. Jesus Is Born 20. A Visit from the Magi 21. Anna Waits 22. Jesus Calls His Disciples 23. Jesus Heals a Little Boy 24. Jesus Heals a Man Who Couldn't Walk 25. Jesus Calms the Storm 26. Jesus Feeds a Big Crowd 27. Jesus Heals Ten Sick Men 28. Jesus Heals a Man Who Couldn't See 29. Jesus and the Children 30. Zacchaeus 31. Palm Sunday 32. Easter 33. Jesus Changes Paul 34. Paul and the Wall 35. Escape! 36. Shipwreck

## Play—Up Close

The Play program supplies leaders with a step-by-step guide for each session. This key will help you understand what is included in each session.

It all starts with the Bible! The Scripture reference is listed first because it's the foundation of every *Dwell* session

34

The session focus.

This section helps

you identify the key

teaching or theme

Goals for growing in

faith and action. Each

session's Faith Nurture

Goals help you focus

on what the children

will be learning and

how you can respond

together to God's story.

of the session.

Wondering isn't just for kids! These wondering questions will help you to experience the story as you prepare to lead.

# Paul and the Wall

Focus Jesus took care of Paul when ne was an Faith Nurture Goals Tell how Jesus took care of Paul. Feel assured that Jesus always takes care of us. Feel assured that Jesus always takes care of us.

Thank accusate
 Reflection
 Paul's conversion involves a call to do a specific task for the Lord, Jesus tells him to go unit paul's conversion involves a call to you must do" (yc). Annaise confirms that call by tells the tojd what you must do" (yc). Annaise confirms that call by tells to you will be come an ambassador of the gospel.

Paul that he win become Paul takes up his work for the Lord almost immediately. Within a few days we find many the synagogue presching and arguing that "Jessu's is the Son of God" and convincing many people that this is true (920-22). You may wonder how Paul is able to do this so quickly without being coached by the other Jessus and the teachings of the early church in order to fight them. He also probably knew all Jessus and the teachings of the early church in order to fight them. He also probably knews all the arguments the Christians presented in their case that Jessus was the promised Messian Not on to nay can be made the asses arguments, but he can speak from personal experime to someone who has seen the living Christ. Undoubtedly what here no argued the smallhand of segments who has seen the living Christ. Undoubtedly what have encouraged the smallhand of segments who has seen the living Christ. Undoubtedly was the second the small here of the second teaching of the synagegue. The second teaching of the synagegue, and it must have encouraged the small hard of second teaching of the synagegue. Supervised the synagegue argue the synagegue argue the synagegue argue the small here of the synagegue argue the synagegue argue trans.

someoue ways the people in the synaps of their persecutor preserved full control of the people in the synaps of the persecutor preserved Christians in Damascus to hear their persecutor preserved You may stumble over the phrase "proving that Jeuss" has the Messiah" (S2A). Mont 've accept Jeuss as our Savior by faith, and by arguments? Didn't Jeuss Don't we accept Jeuss as our Savior by faith, and by arguments the synaps Don't we accept Jeuss as our Savior by faith, and by arguments the synaps Don't we accept Jeuss as our Savior by faith and argume, but Don't we accept Jeuss as our Savior by faith and arguments Don't we accept Jeuss Don't we accept Don't we acce



neouting-to-based were planaedoesn't say that any of them became Christians because cothem want to kill them. Paul's fellow Jews in Damacous arrange for people to stay by the dit or the Paul and kill him. Word also gets out that the governon of us has ordered Paul's arrest. Paul's enemies probably hoped to can in the process of running away and conveniently get rid of him. If an Paulis is to brave. The other disciples urge him to rotu. One night the is absolve him by ropes through a window in the city we are he makes his way to Jerusalem.

 **Deneral Supplies** Bestion of May includes bestion, if, such as visuals for visual section services of the subport the ladest resources task, usual tasching supplies, such as drawing paper, construction participation with the markers, cryons, stately cisoson, guesticks, and play dough, volver and the OD that comes with the controller.

ps	Time	Activity	Session-Specific Materials	Multiple Intelligences
p 1	10-15	Welcome Basket talk	<ul> <li>□ Basket collection, beanbag (optional)</li> <li>□ Story picture from session 33 (leader's resources)</li> </ul>	Aa
p 2	10	Story	Story picture (leader's resources)	🖬 Aa 🧹
P 3	10-15	Story drama	Props: basket, masking tape or sidewalk chalk	xṫAa
P 4	5-10	Praise	Song: "God Is Watching over You" Song: "Just Say Thanks" Show and Share cards, session 34	∜Aa≛

#### Step 1 Welcome the children

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n

Step

Welcome the children and gather everyone around you in your usual circle. Bring with you an assortment of baskets (all sizes) to show the children. Place your collection inside a big laundry basket and set it in the center of your circle. Invite each child to come and choose a basket from your collection to take back to his or her place in the circle.

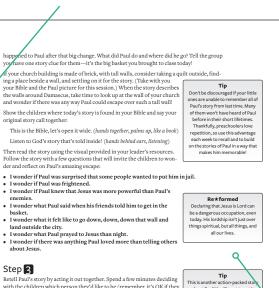
kreak from the others their basket and suggest what it might be used for. Talk about the others their basket and suggest what it might be used for. Talk about things we might collect or carry or store in baskets—compose or markers, subrevare, plants, flowers, toys, fruit, candy, sewing things, picnic supples, and so forth. Conclude war conversation by talking about the laundry basket and what

skithe hidren to ket and taketuma ti might hold—clothes, toys, a per, mybe even a person? Give the childera a chance to climb into the laundry basket to see if it's big enough to hold them? Then collect their baskets in your laundry basket and promit it no the basket. very good use for a big basket the yours.

Step 2 Take a few minutes to recall P

Take a few minutes to recall Paul's story from last time. Show the group the two-sided story picture you used to illustrate Paul's big change from Jesus' enemy into Jesus' friend. Can the children retell the story to their friends who were absent last time? Wonder aloud what

• Leaders love this section! The Reflection provides additional context, background, and insights to help you, the leader, grow in your own faith and understanding of Scripture and to share the story's key ideas with your group. This section is not part of the actual lesson but serves as a bonus just for you. **Kids learn best through a variety of methods!** These symbols show how each step of the session is designed to appeal to kids' unique gifts.



last time. You'll nee

tape-that's it for props today

Step B3 Retil Paul's story by acting it out together. Spend a few minutes deciding with the children which person they'd like to be (remember, it's OK if they all want to be Paul'). Also decide where you'll phace your city wall, and use masking tape (or sidewalk chalk if you took your story outdoors today) to mark of the city boundaries. Then retiel the story in your own words and help the children bring it to life by acting it out. Retell it as many times as you need to in order for each little "Paul" to make his or her escape in the laundry basket.

### Step 4

Spend some time praising Jesus for his love—and for taking care of you wherever you go, just as he took care of Paul. Invite the children to mention some of the places they've been in the week since you were together bast. Did they find themselves in any scary places or situations? Invite their stories, then assure them that Jesus was there with them, watching over them just as he watched over Paul. Emphasize that Jesus cares for his friends and is always with them!

Sing "God Is Watching over You" (CD track 11) and "Just Say Thanks" (CD track 20). If the remains repeat this simple prover with the children to close your session.

### Each session has four steps to learning and growing:

Step 1: Gathering and introducing the Bible story Step 2: Presenting the Bible story Step 3: Reviewing the Bible story Step 4: Concluding with worship and praise to our great God

Your Play kit will include a variety of resources to help you lead each Play session. Here are the companion materials for this lesson.

The Sing with Me Preschool Songs CD is included in every Play kit. It includes 22 kid-friendly songs that you can use throughout your session.

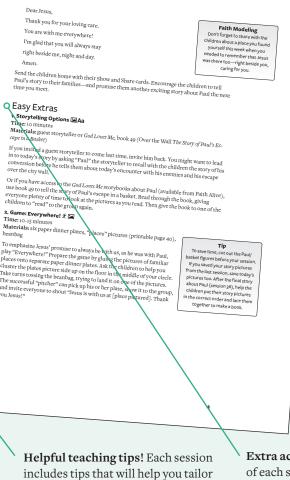






Colorful leader resources help you tell the story in a way that engages kids.





the lesson to the particular needs of

give further insight into the Scripture

passage and its interpretation from a

Reformed/Presbyterian perspective.

your group. Re★formed tip boxes

• Extra activities. At the end of each session plan you'll find some extra activities that can be substituted for a regular step or added to the plan to extend your session.



**Beautiful children's resources** called "Show and Share cards" are sent home with children after each session, giving them a way to share God's story with their families.



Well® www.DwellCurriculum.org

## What sets Dwell apart?

*Dwell* offers a coordinated approach to church education from preschool through grade 8. But *Dwell* is more than a curriculum—it's a program that seeks to provide kids with less noise and more time to experience God's story. *Dwell* actively engages kids in God's story with interactive games, reflective wondering, dramatic storytelling, and a whole lot of fun. Through it all, *Dwell* invites kids to find their place in God's story, living into and out of it for the rest of their lives. For more information about *Dwell* curriculum's goals and values, as well as its scope and sequence, visit *DwellCurriculum.org*.

## Does theology really matter in a curriculum?

Just because a children's curriculum contains Bible stories doesn't mean it is designed to teach kids all they need to know. Every session of Play is taught from a Reformed, God-centered perspective. It's a perspective that views the Bible primarily as the story about God and his love for us—not about biblical heroes or morals. This perspective considers every story as part of the one big story of God's redemption and restoration of this fallen world through Jesus Christ. The Re★formed tip box is your assurance that we take seriously what your little ones will be learning; it explains *Dwell's* approach in every story you'll be teaching.

## How does Play help me partner with parents?

Corresponding Show and Share cards can be sent home with the children as a way to share God's story with their families. We've also provided a reproducible letter you can send to families to introduce them to Play and share your hopes for the year.

You can recommend that parents and caregivers purchase Play's *Sing with Me Preschool Songs* CD from *FaithAliveResources.org*, and sing those songs with their little ones at home. Check out our *Dwell at Home* family connection resources on the Leader Support page of *DwellCurriculum.org* for other ways to connect your teaching to faith formation at home.

## Order today!

You can place an order at *DwellCurriculum.org* by clicking on "Shop" or by calling 800-333-8300.

## **Questions?**

Contact us with any questions at 800-333-8300 or *support@dwellcurriculum.org*.