

KIDS *of* INTEGRITY

Reverence



Read descriptions from people who saw visions of God, munch an Oreo cookie to learn about God's holiness, and go on a treasure hunt to learn more about Him!

Discover fun activities here to help kids:

- begin to understand God's power and sovereignty
- begin to understand God's holiness
- develop a respectful awe of God.

You'll also find this lesson helpful for addressing a lack of respect for God or using His name in vain.

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Scripture verses in this lesson are quoted from the English Standard Version.

Parents' prayer

Prepare for this lesson by talking to God about your own need to become more aware of the incredible power, majesty and mercy of God.

If you prefer to personalize your prayer, read through the additional verses provided under "Scripture-guided prayer" for direction and inspiration.

Sample prayer

God Most High, "There is none like You, O Lord; You are great, and Your name is great in might. Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like You" (Jeremiah 10:6-7). You made the earth by Your power, established the world by Your wisdom, and by Your understanding You stretched out the heavens (Jeremiah 10:12). I see Your grand designs everywhere! You are the One who formed us and in You we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28)! Reflecting on You and Your perfect holiness causes me to recognize my own insignificance and brings my sinfulness to light, yet You see me as significant and consider me worthy – worthy enough that You gave Your Son Jesus to die for my sins so that I can be part of Your family (Galatians 2:20). Thank you!

Daily I am amazed by Your grace that welcomes me into Your holy presence. The magnitude of You and Your love is beyond my understanding. Forgive me, Lord, for being self-centred and small-minded in my view of You. How little I really know of You and Your amazing power! Please bless me with fresh insights and renewed appreciation for You each day so I can truly fear You and teach our children to do the same. I pray, as David did, "Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name" (Psalm 86:11).

Heavenly Father, as my children learn about You, I ask that their spontaneous reaction would be of awe-inspired worship, willing obedience and incredible trust. As my children, _____ and _____, are amazed by the multitude of stars on a clear night, speak to them of Your power, gently reminding them that You bring the stars out each night and because of Your great power and mighty strength not one of them is missing (Isaiah 40:26). As my children, _____

and _____, stand at the foot of an immense mountain or on the shore of a crashing sea, remind them that it is You who establishes and removes mountains and commands the ocean to be still (Psalm 65:5-7, Psalm 89:9, Job 9:5; 38:8-11, Isaiah 40:4-5).

As _____ and _____ learn about the complexities of their bodies' design may they know full well that it was You who made them and may they desire to honour You with their bodies (Psalm 139:14). As my children experience pain and injustice in life, remind them of the cruel and undeserved death You suffered on the cross. Let this speak to _____ and _____ of Your incredible love and merciful grace. Please establish a spiritual pattern in their lives that has them drawing ever nearer to You because they revere You and desire Your refining, rather than avoiding You because they have hidden sin in their lives (John 14:6).

My prayer is that _____ and _____ will fall so much in love with You that they desire You more than the things that could compete for their affection. In this culture _____ and _____ will be tempted to treat You trivially, to trust in themselves and in man instead of trusting in You. Media is rampant with "heroes" who slander Your name and "OMG" is thoughtlessly shared via text-talk, potentially influencing _____ and _____ to disrespect You too. Please protect them from Satan's plans to discredit You by limiting their perspective of who You are: the great I AM.

Please put Your Spirit on _____ and _____ so, like Jesus, they will delight in fearing You (Isaiah 11:3). As they grow, may they develop an unwavering confidence in You and may their sincere love for You be the basis for their conduct.

For our family, I pray that we will live, hour by hour, fully aware of Your presence in our lives. Your Word says: "I will make My dwelling among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. . . . I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me, says the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:16,18). What a privilege it is to have the Lord of the universe as our Father! We want to revere You and to follow carefully all Your commands, not considering ourselves better than others and

not turning from Your law to the left or the right (Deuteronomy 17:18-20). Amen.

Scripture-guided prayer for parents

Read and pray through one or more of the selected Scriptures under each heading. Focus on listening to God and allowing His Spirit to direct you as you pray.

Character focus

Begin by letting God know how much you are in awe of who He is and what He does. Acknowledge that He is the all-powerful and all-knowing, ever-present, sovereign Lord and Creator of the Universe. Thank Him for being a loving and personal God.

Psalm 86:8-10 | Psalm 93:1-5 | Isaiah 44:6-8 | Amos 4:13 | Romans 11:33-36

Heart search

Acknowledge times when you've shown a lack of reverence for God.

Deuteronomy 17:18-20 | Psalm 36:1-4 | Isaiah 59:12-20 | 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1 | Romans 3:9-18

Gratitude

Thank God for ways you have seen a healthy "fear of God" in your family.

Family requests

Ask God to help you and your children learn to revere Him. Deuteronomy 10:12-20 | Psalm 86:11-12 | Psalm 147:10-11 | Isaiah 50:10-11 | Matthew 6:9-13

Kids talk with God

These sample prayers all begin with "Dear God," but you may use any other names of God your children are comfortable with (i.e. Father God, Lord Jesus, Heavenly Father, Abba Father, etc.)

If your children are ready to pray original prayers, you may wish to use the Bible verses provided under "Scripture-guided prayer for children."

Sample prayers

Dear God, You are an awesome God. You are the great King of the earth. Amen. (Psalm 47:2)

Dear God, I praise Your awesome name. You are holy. Amen. (Psalm 99:3)

Dear God, You amaze me! Most of all I love _____ (have your child list something they appreciate about God). Amen.

Dear God, my favourite animal is the _____. Thank you for making it just the way You did. Amen.

Dear God, please help me to learn more about You so I can love You even more. Amen.

Dear God, You are so great that I don't really understand how amazing You are. So I praise You with one word: Wow! Amen. (Psalm 145:3)

Dear God, You are holy and worthy of honour! Amen. (Revelation 4:8,5:13).

Dear God, You are bigger than a _____. You are stronger than a _____. You are more powerful than a _____. I am in awe of You! Amen.

Scripture-guided prayer for children

Read through one of the selected Scriptures under each heading and help your children pray based on the verse you read. Encourage them to listen to God and allow His Spirit to guide them as they pray.

Character focus

Begin by marvelling over God's power and love, and the beauty and complexity of the things He has made. Psalm 77:13-14 | Psalm 96:4 | Amos 4:13

Heart search

Tell God you are sorry for showing a lack reverence for Him. Psalm 5:4 | Psalm 15:1-2 | Proverbs 3:7

Gratitude

Thank God for the ways that your family admires and respects God.

Family requests

Ask God to help you, your siblings and your parents learn to deeply respect Him. Deuteronomy 13:4 | Psalm 86:11 | Psalm 119:9-10

Speak a blessing

Encourage your children throughout your lesson by being quick to commend them whenever you notice them show respect for God. Simple statements like these mean a lot to a child.

- You honoured God by being quiet while we prayed. Thank you.
- Thank you for being willing to pray about this. When you talk to God about your problems, it shows you believe He cares and is strong enough to help.
- Great job obeying God's command to _____ (e.g. do to others as you would want done to you, love your neighbour, obey your parents). When we fear God, we obey His commandments.
- I'm glad you remembered to pray before eating. God is honoured when we remember to thank Him for the good things we have in our lives.
- I like the way you treated _____ (name the aspect of God's creation). It shows God you respect Him when you treat the things He made with care.
- Thank you for respecting _____ (name the person your child showed respect for). God is pleased when we respect people; we are all His creations.
- We honour God when we bow our heads or kneel, and when we pay attention when someone is praying to God.

Memory verses

Memorizing Scripture with your children helps God's Spirit bring about lasting change. Choose a verse that your children can learn over the course of your lesson and aim to review the verse at least once every day.

Deuteronomy 32:4 "The Rock, His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He."

Psalm 10:30a "This God – His way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true . . ."

Psalm 25:12 “Who is the man who fears the Lord? Him will He instruct in the way that he should choose.”

Psalm 33:8-9 “Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him! For He spoke, and it came to be; He commanded, and it stood firm.”

Psalm 47:2 “For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.”

Psalm 89:8 “O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O Lord, with Your faithfulness all around You?”

Psalm 96:4 “For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.”

Psalm 102:15 “Nations will fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth will fear Your glory.”

Psalm 111:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!”

Psalm 114:7a “Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord . . .”

Psalm 147:5 “Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.”

Ecclesiastes 3:14 “I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before Him.”

Ecclesiastes 12:13b “Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

Isaiah 46:9b “. . . I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me . . .”

Jeremiah 10:7 “Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like You.”

Revelation 4:8b “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

Revelation 5:13 “And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, ‘To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!’ ”

Revelation 5:4a “Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy.”

Kick-off craft

Plan to do this **kick-off craft** early in your lesson on revering God. You will work together to make a poster showing God as creator, sovereign, eternal, all-present and all-powerful. You may want to complete your poster over several sessions rather than trying to complete it all at once.

Greatness of God poster

Before we can really revere God, we need to understand who He is. As you make this poster together, you’ll help your children understand that:

- God is the Creator – He made the whole world and everything in it
- God never changes – He was always here and always will be
- God is all knowing, all powerful and all seeing
- God alone is holy and perfect.

Directions

You will need the following supplies:

- three sheets of thick poster paper: one black, one white and one blue
- glue
- yellow paper
- green paper or lightweight green fabric
- a picture of your family
- star-shaped stickers

- a small rock or pebble
- a small chunk of playdough
- pictures from magazines showing animals and sets of human eyes.

Here's how to make your poster:

God is eternal; He was here before the earth was created

- 1** Begin by laying the black piece of poster board on a table to represent the earth when it was formless and empty.
- 2** Read **Genesis 1:1-2** and **Psalm 102:25-27**, then work through the following questions:

Questions for discussion

1. If you were granted one wish and could ask for anything in the world, what would you wish for?
2. What did Solomon ask God for?
3. Did this please God?
4. What did God do for Solomon?
5. Is there anything you want to ask God for today?

God made the earth, the land and the sea; there is no end to His existence

- 3** Read **Genesis 1:3-8**.
- 4** Cut the white poster in half. Glue half of it over the black poster paper so there is a black half and a white half to your poster. The black half represents night and the white half represents daytime.
- 5** Read **Genesis 1:9-10**.
- 6** Cut a large circle out of the blue poster paper and paste it at the centre of your poster. This blue circle represents the water covering the whole earth.

- 7** Next, help your children cut a variety of shapes out of the green paper to represent land. Glue your land masses within the blue circle.

- 8** Read **Revelation 22:13**, then follow the questions for discussion.

Questions for discussion

1. Can you find the place where our blue circle of water starts or ends?
2. How is God like the circle?
3. Can you see God?
4. Who created the land and the sky?
5. Do you see any people yet?
6. Do you see anything else?
7. Who was here before any living creatures?

God made all living creatures, including people

- 9** Read **Genesis 1:11-19**.
- 10** Cut out the shape of a sun and glue it to the daytime side of your poster.
- 11** Now cut out a yellow moon and glue it to the night side of your poster.

Questions for discussion

1. Which two great lights did God make?
2. Which side of the poster should we put the moon on?
3. Where should we put the sun?
4. Did God make anything green?
5. Do you see any people yet?
6. Do you see anything else?

- 12** Read **Genesis 1:20-27**.

13 Now it's time to add a picture of your family and a few creatures. (As your lesson on reverence progresses you will add other elements of God's creation to your poster.)

Questions for discussion

1. Where can we find a picture of you to add to the earth?
2. What's your favourite animal? Let's see if we can find a picture of one to add to the earth.
3. Did God make something that can live in the water?
4. What kind of animal would you like to add to the water and to the sky?

God is everywhere; He sees everything, and He is incredibly powerful.

14 Read Proverbs 15:3 and Jeremiah 23:24.

15 Cut out a number of pairs of eyes and add them around the perimeter of the earth.

16 Cut out or colour a picture to represent your home and add it to your poster.

17 Read Isaiah 40:26.

18 Add star stickers to your poster to remind you that God is all-powerful.

19 Read Deuteronomy 32:4.

20 Pass around the playdough and the rock, and let your kids decide which is easiest to mould and change.

21 Lastly, glue or tape the small rock to your poster to remind you that God is "solid" and unchanging.

22 Write your memory verse on your poster.

Questions for discussion

1. Can you see the air?

2. Where is the air?

3. Can you go somewhere where there is no air? (*There is air underwater, but not in a form that humans can breathe.*)

4. Where is God?

5. Can you hide from God?

6. How big is a star?

7. Did you know that stars are bigger and much heavier than a mountain?

8. Can you lift our house? Who can?

9. Whose great power and mighty strength keeps the stars in the sky?

During your lesson on reverence, make a point of admiring God's creation and adding that aspect of nature to the poster. For example, if you are out on a walk, draw your children's attention to flowers, a butterfly or interesting cloud patterns, then add pictures of these elements to your poster when you get home.

Bible stories

Choose one or more Bible stories that are appropriate for your children. If the Bible passage is too complex for your children, paraphrase the story yourself or use the summary provided under "key concepts."

God describes His great power

Read Isaiah 40:12-14,21-22,25-31.

Questions for discussion

1. How much water can you hold in your hands?
2. Can you hold the ocean in your hands?
3. Can you lift a mountain?
4. Can you hold all the dust of the earth in a basket?
5. Can you tell me the names of all the stars in the sky?

6. We can't do these amazing things, but who can?
7. Who taught God how to do all this?
8. Does anyone know what God is thinking?
9. Is anyone wise enough to tell God what to do or give Him advice?
10. If God is this powerful, do you think He knows the details of our lives?
11. Do you think He cares about the things we face each day?
12. In what ways does God care for us?

Key concepts

The Bible tells us God measured out the water that's on earth and used the breadth of His hand to mark out the heavens. He can hold the dust of the earth in a basket and weigh the mountains and hills like we weigh fruit at the grocery store.

No one has ever told God what to do. There is no one equal to God. He is the one who put the stars in the sky and makes sure they come out and shine at night. God created the whole earth and He sees all that takes place on the earth. God is much mightier than we are, yet He offers His power to help us.

What does God look like?

Read Ezekiel 1:25-28 and Revelation 1:9-17.

Questions for discussion

1. What's the most incredible thing you've ever seen?
2. What did you do when you saw it?
3. Were Ezekiel and John being silly and goofing around after they saw the vision of God?
4. What was Ezekiel's reaction to seeing a vision of God?
5. What was John's reaction to seeing a vision of God?

6. Do you think Ezekiel and John feared God more after they saw the vision of Him?
7. If you saw God appear before you, what do you think you would do?
8. How can we show God that we respect Him?
9. What should our attitudes and actions be like when we are praying or worshipping God?

Key concepts

Ezekiel and John both describe their vision of God similarly. Both men said that God looked like a man, that He was glowing like a fire, and that He was surrounded by a brilliant light.

When we see something amazing we often stand and stare with our mouths wide open. If people are extremely frightened, sometimes they fall to the ground. This is what Ezekiel and John did when they saw the vision of God.

In Matthew 18 we read that when two or three believers come together in God's name, He says He will be there with them. For this reason, when we pray and when we go into God's house to be with Him, we need to remember Who it is we are speaking with and worshipping, and we need to behave respectfully when we are in God's presence. To "fear God" means we have a deep awe and respect for Him.

Relevant Scripture

Matthew 18:19-21 "Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them."

God knows everything about us

Read **Genesis 3:1-13**.

Note: If your children are already familiar with the story of Eve and Adam's temptation, you can tell a modern-day version of this story instead.

Set your story in a kitchen where an inchworm tempts a brother and sister to eat some "forbidden" marshmallows. Have the inchworm tempt the sister

saying, “Look guys, your parents want you to be happy. Are you happier when you have a treat, or when you’re just longing for one? If you don’t eat the marshmallows, I’m going to chew through the bag and eat holes in all the marshmallows so they won’t be any good for anyone to enjoy. So just go ahead and eat them before they get full of worm holes. Your mom and dad will be okay with you eating marshmallows once they know you were rescuing them from being eaten by a pesky worm.”

Have the sister give in first and the brother eventually convinced by the sister to eat some. When their parents are heard returning to the scene, have the guilty children hide in the pantry.

Questions for discussion

1. Does this story remind you of something that happened in your life?
2. When you have done wrong, who do you fear? Why?
3. Even if Mom or Dad never find out about what you have done wrong, who already knows about it?
4. Why do your parents give you rules and expect you to follow them?
5. Why does God give us rules in the Bible?
6. Why should we fear God?

Key concepts

The story of Adam and Eve being tempted to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil reminds us how easy it is to give in to temptation when we allow our minds to be influenced by Satan’s sneaky ideas.

When children have done something wrong, typically they will fear their parents, because they know their parents will likely discipline them.

Just as parents make family rules to take good care of their children, God gives us commandments in the Bible that are for our own benefit. Our lives would be miserable if no one followed God’s rules. For example, one of God’s rules is “Do not steal” (Deuteronomy 5:19). Imagine how dreadful it would be to live somewhere where stealing was allowed. There would be constant disagreements over who

owned what. God gives us rules so that life will go well for us (Deuteronomy 6:18).

When a child has done something wrong, they feel awkward around their parents. But once the wrongdoing has been dealt with, it feels so much better to be together with their parents again. In the same way, hiding sin in our lives gives us similar feelings of unrest. We become afraid of getting close to God and we try to hide from Him. It’s important to remember that God is happy when we tell Him we are sorry for sinning and He offers to forgive our sins when we repent. When we deeply appreciate and love God, we want to get rid of our sin so we can enjoy being close to Him.

Relevant Scripture

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 “The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

Swallowed by the earth

Note: This Bible passage tells how God put to death a large number of rebellious people. Use your discernment as to whether this story is appropriate for your children. Begin by reading the background to this story:

God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. And God gave Moses’ brother, Aaron, and his sons the job of serving as priests, but only Aaron was permitted to burn incense before God (Exodus 30:7-8, Exodus 40:12-16, Leviticus 10:1-3).

Other men from the tribe of Levi were given jobs of serving in God’s tabernacle – a place of worship, like a church, where the Israelites could go and meet with God (Numbers 1:44-54, Numbers 3:5-10). However only the priests (Aaron and his sons) were allowed to go into the inner part of the tabernacle, called the sanctuary (Numbers 3:38). A man named Korah (a Levite) gathered 250 well-known leaders from their community to challenge Moses and Aaron’s leadership. They

accused Moses of being a bad leader because they had not yet reached the land of goodness that God had promised them (Numbers 16:1-15).

Read Numbers 16:16-40.

Questions for discussion

1. What did Moses do when Korah wanted to lead instead of Moses and Aaron?
2. What was God going to do to all of the Israelites, because of Korah?
3. Who convinced God to change His mind?
4. What happened to the people who rebelled against God and Moses?
5. Do you think people today also do things that make God very angry?
6. How can we show God that we revere (deeply respect) Him?

Key concepts

God was angry with Korah because he refused to follow the leaders (Moses and Aaron) whom God had chosen to lead the Israelites. God was also angry with the people who were demanding to be given the privilege of burning incense, because God had already said only Aaron could do that job. As Levites (those selected to serve God) they were not content with the jobs they were given, but they wanted the jobs that had more honour.

When God put these rebellious people to death, it was a significant warning for the Israelites. God was letting them know that the people needed to revere (highly respect) Him and those who He put in authority over them. We can show God that we revere Him by obeying those who are in authority over us and by following the rules He set out for us to follow in the Bible.

Relevant Scripture

Malachi 2:1-2 “And now, O priests, this command is for you. If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to My name, says the Lord of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will

curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart.”

Malachi 2:4-5 “So shall you know that I have sent this command to you, that My covenant with Levi may stand, says the Lord of hosts. My covenant with him was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him. It was a covenant of fear, and he feared Me. He stood in awe of My name.”

David honours God

Begin by reading the background to this story:

As king of Israel, David had been blessed by God because he loved and obeyed God. Nearing the end of his life and his reign as king, David decided to honour God in a special way. He began to gather supplies so that his son Solomon, the next king of Israel, could build a spectacular temple to honour God.

Now read 1 Chronicles 29:1-14.

Questions for discussion

1. Can you name some of the wonderful things David gave to help build a temple for God?
2. Where did David say that he got all the gold, silver, bronze, wood and precious stones he gave for God’s temple?
3. Who followed David’s example and also gave things for the temple?
4. What did all the people do when David prayed, praising God?
5. How can we honour God?

Key concepts

David and the other Israelites rejoiced when they saw all that was being given to help build God’s temple. David prayed in front of all the people, praising God for His greatness and power.

David also humbly thanked God for giving them so much that they could give it back to Him. David said, “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things

come from You, and of Your own have we given You” (1 Chronicles 29:14).

David was following a command God gave the Israelites in earlier years. God warned them that it would be easy for them to begin to think they produced wealth on their own and He told them not to forget that wealth was a gift from Him (Deuteronomy 6:4-12).

In our own lives, we need to remember that everything in heaven and on earth belongs to God. Recognizing this, we need to thank God for the blessings of having homes, wealth, families and many other good things. As we pray, we can bow our heads or kneel down and praise God for who He is and for all He has given us. We can also honour God by giving money back to Him through giving offerings at church or sharing money with those who are in need.

Relevant Scripture

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 “Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may confirm His covenant that He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 “The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

A king forgets to honour God

Read 2 Chronicles 26.

Questions for discussion

1. How old was Uzziah when he became king?
2. The Bible says that Zechariah instructed Uzziah. What did Zechariah teach Uzziah to do?
3. What happened when Uzziah feared God?
4. Can you remember some of the great things Uzziah did?

5. What sinful attitude caused Uzziah to forget to honour God?
6. What did Uzziah do that shows he no longer respected God?
7. What did God do?
8. How can we avoid making the same mistake Uzziah did?

Key concepts

Fear of God brings success, but having pride in oneself, instead of giving honour to God, results in failure. Uzziah was only 16 years old when he became king of Israel. The Bible tells us that he did what was right, following God’s commands, just as his father Amaziah had done. Uzziah also sought God and listened to Zechariah, who taught him to fear God. Because Uzziah honoured God, God allowed him to become very successful.

Uzziah’s success made him famous, but sadly enough, when he became powerful he became proud. One day Uzziah decided he would like to burn incense in the temple, even though he knew this was a job God had given to the priests. A great many priests followed Uzziah into the temple and warned him not to burn the incense, but Uzziah wouldn’t listen. Instead he got angry. As he stood before the altar of incense in the temple, raging at the priests, he became covered with leprosy (a very dreadful and contagious skin disease). Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died and he had to live apart from other people. His son Jotham governed the country instead.

Many wise and successful people, like Uzziah, have turned away from following God because they became proud and began to honour themselves instead of God. When we have everything we need, it’s easy to rely on ourselves and forget that God gave it all to us. It’s also easy to become proud of the things we accomplish, how we look, or even how we act. We can avoid the trap of pride by always giving God the honour He deserves and obeying Him.

An exciting day with Jesus

Read Mark 5:21-43.

Questions for discussion

1. What do people do when a famous person comes to their town?
2. Why did Jairus come to see Jesus?
3. How did Jairus honour Jesus?
4. What did the crowd do when Jesus left with Jairus?
5. Why do you think the crowd followed them?
6. What happened as they walked along?
7. Why did the lady touch Jesus?
8. How did she honour Jesus?
9. What did Jesus say when men reported that Jairus' daughter had died?
10. Why did the people laugh at Jesus?
11. If you were Jairus, how would you have honoured Jesus for healing your daughter?

Key concepts

A crowd of people had gathered around Jesus when a man named Jairus came to Jesus and fell at His feet. Jairus begged Jesus to come and heal his daughter, who was dying.

Jesus went with Jairus and all the people followed, pressing in around Jesus. In this large gathering there was a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years. She had spent most of her money on doctors, trying to get better, but she was getting worse. As soon as she touched Jesus, her bleeding stopped! Jesus asked who had touched his clothes. The woman who had been healed came forward and honoured Jesus by falling at his feet. Jesus wasn't angry. Instead He said, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease" (Mark 5:34).

Meanwhile, Jairus' daughter had died. Men came from his household and told Jairus his daughter was dead. Ignoring the messengers, Jesus told Jairus, "Do not fear, only believe" (Mark 5:36). When they got to Jairus' house there was wailing and commotion because the girl had died. Jesus went in to where the girl was and took her by the hand and told her to get up. Immediately she was well again and was able to walk around!

What an amazing day it must have been in the life of Jesus' disciples. What a wonderful day for the woman who was healed of her bleeding and for Jairus, his wife and daughter! No wonder the crowds were following Jesus!

A fishy story of trust and obedience

Read Luke 5:1-11.

Note: If you wish, let your children act out this story, filling their "nets" (a slotted spoon) with fish crackers from a bowl.

Questions for discussion

1. Have you ever gone fishing?
2. How do you feel when you don't catch anything?
3. How long had Peter and his friends been fishing?
4. How many fish had they caught?
5. What do you think Peter thought when Jesus asked him to go fishing again?
6. How did Peter obey Jesus?
7. What names did Peter call Jesus?

Key concepts

Jesus was standing by a lake talking to a large group of people. Then Jesus climbed into Simon Peter's boat and asked him to steer the boat a short distance from the shore. Jesus sat down in the boat and taught the people from there.

When He was done talking, Jesus told Peter to go out into the deep water and let down the fishing nets to catch fish. To Peter, this seemed like an odd

request, because he had already fished all night and they hadn't caught anything. Even though Peter had a good reason not to obey Jesus' instructions, he and his friends still did what Jesus asked.

Much to their surprise, the nets got so full of fish that the nets started to break and they had to call another fishing boat over to help bring in the huge catch of fish.

Peter responded by saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." The story ends with Jesus telling Peter that from now on he would be catching men instead of fish. Peter and the others left all their fishing gear there on the shore and followed Jesus.

Peter showed Jesus that he deeply respected or "feared" Him because Peter obeyed Jesus' instructions and admitted his own sinfulness. Peter also showed his respect for Jesus by calling Him "Master" and "Lord."

The thief on the cross

Read [Luke 23:35-43](#) and [Matthew 27:51-54](#).

Questions for discussion

1. Who else was being crucified at the same time as Jesus?
2. What did the people who were watching the crucifixions do?
3. Who else joined in mocking Jesus?
4. What sorts of mocking things did he say?
5. What did the second criminal say?
6. Which criminal believed that Jesus was God?
7. What did Jesus say to him?
8. After Jesus died and the earthquake happened, what do you think the criminals said to each other?

Key concepts

When Jesus was crucified, there were two criminals crucified along with him. Many of the people who came to watch Jesus die made fun of Him. They said things like, "He saved others; He cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him" ([Matthew 27:42](#)).

One of the criminals also made fun of Jesus, but the second criminal said to the first; "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong" ([Luke 23:40-41](#)). He also said to Jesus, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom" ([Luke 23:42](#)). Jesus replied, "Truly, I say to You, today you will be with Me in Paradise" ([Luke 23:43](#)).

Right after Jesus died, the curtain of the temple ripped in two, there was a huge earthquake, rocks broke apart and the tombs of many holy people opened and the people came out. One of the soldiers guarding Jesus said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" ([Matthew 27:54](#)). The Bible also tells us that Jesus died before the two criminals did. This means both criminals saw and felt the earthquake that happened when Jesus died.

We can imagine the conversation the two criminals may have had after Jesus died. It might have been similar to conversations that people all over the world still have today. Some believe that Jesus is the Son of God, others argue that Jesus is not God. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Son of God and that when we believe this, we too have eternal life.

Relevant Scripture

[John 3:36](#) "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

[John 11:25-27](#) "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to Him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe

that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.’ ”

Creative discipline

For a child who is disobedient

Biblical basis

Deuteronomy 31:12-13 “Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.”

Suggested disciplinary action

Disobeying a parent’s instructions reflects a lack of fear of God, who has placed parents in authority over their children.

Plan to spend a long “time out” with your disobedient child. Begin by explaining that God has given you the responsibility of teaching him or her to deeply respect God (Deuteronomy 31:12-13). Next, read Deuteronomy 28:1-25 to your child, emphasizing all the ways God plans to bless the Israelites for being obedient and how He warns them of curses (or trouble) that will follow if they are disobedient. After reading the Scripture passage, review with your child that one of God’s commands for children is to obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:20). Make it clear that disobeying God’s rules or treating God or parents with disrespect is unacceptable.

Affirmation

As your time out comes to an end, let your child know that you are confident that he or she desires to honour God and to obey you. Pray with your child, asking God to help them love, respect Him and obey Him. You could use a simple prayer like this one:

Dear God, please look in my heart and show me if there is any disrespect for You or my parents. Thank you for loving me. Please teach me to love You and follow You with all my heart. Amen.

Repeat the process as necessary, each time explaining why you need to take such a hard line on obedience. Matthew 22:36-38 “‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.’ ”

Ecclesiastes 12:13 “The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.”

For a child who uses God's name as a swear word

Biblical basis

Exodus 20:7 “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”

Suggested disciplinary action

Young children pick up language from many sources, often unaware of the meaning behind the words. So on a first offence, explain to your child that they have misused God’s name. Warn your child that if it happens again, you will have no choice but to impose harsh discipline.

For a repeat offence, make it clear that in your family misusing God’s name or dishonouring God in any way is completely unacceptable. The choice of discipline is up to you, but it should be severe.

Affirmation

Gently remind your child that it is better to have harsh discipline from a parent than to experience harsh discipline from God. Pray with your child, guiding them in confessing their sin and reassuring them of God’s forgiveness. Here’s a sample prayer:

God, You are holy and deserve to be honoured. I’m sorry for misusing your name. Thank you for forgiving me. Please guard my mouth and tongue from using Your name as a swear word instead of a praise word. I do want You to be happy with the things I think and say. Amen.

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Psalm 141:1-3 “O Lord, I call upon You; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to You! Let my prayer be counted as incense before You, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice! Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!”

Hands-on options

These fun ideas require very little preparation, making it easy for you to share some simple but memorable lessons with your kids. Choose just one or two ideas that will appeal to your children.

Respecting God's holy name

any time

Throw a party to honour your children's favourite toy or stuffed animal, leading to a discussion of how we show God honour by never using His name as a swear word.

Have fun decorating for your party and preparing snacks. Find as many ways as you can to show honour to the toy being celebrated: let the toy sit in a place of honour, wear a special party hat, blow out the candles, be served first, receive gifts etc.

Questions for discussion

- Where is your favourite stuffie sitting?
- Why did you choose that special place for it?
- Why did we serve your special stuffie first?
- How would you feel if I were to squirt ketchup on your favourite stuffie?
- If your brother, sister or a friend started calling your stuffie rude names, what would you do?
- Would it be okay if I called your stuffie not rude names but just silly names, like Foo-Foo Face?

Key concepts

It would likely make you angry or upset if someone disrespected your prized stuffed animal or toy by getting it dirty or making fun of it. When we value something, we are protective of it. Likewise, if others are going to mistreat a person we love, we are quick to come to that person's defence.

We honour a person or possession when we treat them with extra care. God deserves more honour than people or toys and we should be careful to give special honour to Him.

The Bible tells us that it's wrong to misuse or dishonour God's name (Exodus 20:7). People dishonour God when they use His name as a swear word, by saying “Oh my God!” or writing the letters “OMG.” Another way people dishonour God's name is by saying “Holy cow” or “Holy smoke” or even “Holy hell.” Only God is holy, so using the word “holy” to describe these other things is extremely dishonouring to God.

Acceptable ways to use God's name are during prayer or if we are talking politely about Him. It's unacceptable to use God's name, Jesus' name or the word “holy” as an exclamation of any sort. An important part of loving and fearing God is honouring His name.

Relevant Scripture

Exodus 20:7 “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”

Malachi 2:2 “If you will not listen, if you will not take it to heart to give honor to My name, says the Lord of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you and I will curse your blessings. Indeed, I have already cursed them, because you do not lay it to heart.”

Revelation 4:11 “Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they existed and were created.”

He is lord of all

physical activity

Read the following rhyme aloud and have your children make up actions to go along. Read with energy and expression to help your children enjoy the activity. Then use the questions provided to open a discussion about all the incredible animals God created.

God made all the animals

God made all the animals...

*He made some short and He made some tall,
He made some huge and He made some small,
He made some walk and He made some crawl,
Whichever way He made them, He is Lord of All.*

*God made all the animals...
He made some silly and He gave some a mane,
He made some fancy and He made some plain,
He made some wild and He made some tame,
Whichever way He made them, Lord Almighty is
His name.*

*God made all the animals...
He made some squirmy and He made some run,
He made some nibblers and others eat a ton,
He made some wiggle and He still wasn't done,
Whichever way He made them, He made them fun!*

*God made all the animals...
He made some for the day and some for the night,
He made some gentle and some who like to fight,
He made some cuddly and He made others bite,
Whichever way He made them, He made them
just right.*

*God made all the animals...
He made some bouncy and He made some spry,
He made some hop and He made some fly,
He made some friendly and He made some shy.
Whichever way He made them, He is Lord on high!*

*God made all the animals...
He made some grumpy and He made some grin,
He made some thick and He made some thin,
He made some burrow and He made some swim,
Whichever way He made them, they all praise Him!*

Questions for discussion

- What's your favourite animal?
- Can you name some animals God made to be active in the daytime?
- Can you think of some animals that only come out at night?

- What animal would you like to cuddle, if you had a chance?
- Have you ever seen an animal smile?
- If you could be an animal, which one would you like to be?

Just imagine

drive time / any time

Take turns listing Biblical miracles and wondrous displays of God's power. Preface each one with the phrase "Just imagine what it would have been like to _____." For example, you could say, "Just imagine what it would have been like to eat manna from heaven."

Don't rush through each one but encourage your children to use their imaginations as they think about what each event might have been like. Play until you run out of ideas. The last person to share a "Just imagine" phrase wins.

Here are some ideas to get the game started. Just imagine what it would have been like to . . .

- experience the 10 plagues in Egypt
- see all the water piling up on one side as you crossed the Jordan River on dry ground
- drink the water that poured from a rock
- touch Aaron's rod after it budded
- feel the ground opening up and see it swallowing Korah and the rebels
- see the sun and moon standing still
- have been one of the 300 soldiers in Gideon's army when God made the Midianites fight each other instead of you
- see the whole Aramean army struck with blindness after Elisha prayed
- have watched David take on Goliath and win
- march around Jericho and then see the walls fall down
- smell the smoke-free robes of the men after they were in Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace
- be with Daniel spending the night with hungry lions
- be with Mary when the angel of God visited her and told her she would be the mother of Jesus
- see Jesus calm the stormy sea
- be one of the 4,000 or 5,000 whom Jesus fed

- have been in the boat and seen Jesus walking on the water
- be healed of leprosy
- be one of Jesus' disciples and to see Him heal the crippled and the blind
- have been one of Lazarus' family members and see Jesus bring him back to life after being in the grave for three days.

God fear and good fear

drive time / any time

Set some time aside to explain to your children the difference between fearing God (wow fear), fearing harm (wise fear) and unreasonable fear (boo fear).

The explanations below will help:

Wow fear

Fearing God means to have a deep respect and appreciation for Him. Let's call it **wow fear**. We can feel wow fear when we see beautiful scenes in nature, are fascinated by things God has made, or hear stories about God and the miracles He has done. Wow fear applies to any time we are in awe of God, respecting Him as the Creator and Lord of the Universe.

Wise fear

Another kind of fear happens when we sense danger or when we know something can harm us. This is fear that is wise. It's **wise** to be wary around things that can hurt you. Some examples include fear of wild animals, or power tools, or fire, or heights or water. God gave us this kind of fear to keep us safe.

Boo fear

On the other hand, fear that is out of control is not good fear. When we are fearful of something that is not truly harmful, that's **boo fear**. For example, when we go boating, **wise fear** of water reminds us to wear a life jacket so we will stay afloat if the boat tips over. However, when a person has **boo fear**, they may be afraid to go near water at all. When out-of-control fear limits our choices and actions, we can ask God to provide confidence and peace.

Once your kids have a good understanding of wow fear, wise fear and boo fear, play this simple game where you suggest scenarios and your children identify the type of fear involved. As your children understand the idea of the game, allow them to think of examples

as well. Here are some ideas for starters:

- Moses removed his sandals in front of the burning bush. (Wow fear)
- While walking the woods, a family sees a moose in the distance and retreats back along the trail. (Wise fear)
- On a family hike, Stephanie's family comes to a high swing bridge. Stephanie doesn't want to cross because she's afraid the bridge will break. (Boo fear)
- Jesse is afraid to go to the dentist to get his teeth cleaned. (Boo fear)
- A boy named Eutychus was killed when he fell out of a window and Paul raised him from the dead (Acts 20:7-12). (Wow fear)
- Jake won't use felt-tip markers because he is afraid the smell of the ink will hurt him. (Boo fear)
- Mandy doesn't talk to strangers unless her parents are with her. (Wise fear)
- Kids are climbing on some equipment at a construction site. Even though it looks fun, Lucas doesn't join in. (Wise fear)
- Carlie is afraid to go to a friend's house to play because they have a dog. (Boo fear)
- There is a sunset that makes the clouds look like pink and purple cotton candy. (Wow fear)
- A friend has a new puppy and you get to cuddle him. (Wow fear)
- There is a bonfire blazing out of control in the park. (Wise fear)

Questions for discussion

- Is there something you're afraid of?
- Is it boo fear or wise fear?
- Do you want to ask God to give you peace about any fears you have?

- What could remind you to ask God to give you courage and confidence when you are afraid?

Relevant Scripture

Psalm 92:4 “For You, O Lord, have made me glad by Your work; at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.”

Psalm 121:2 “My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”

Fire power

science with a twist

Let your children examine the flame from a candle (with close supervision), and talk about a time when God used fire to punish sin.

You will need six candles and a lighter.

Before lighting each candle, read aloud one of these fire safety rules:

- Fire is a tool, not a toy! Never play with fire, matches or lighters.
- Matches, stoves, lighters and lanterns are to be used by adults, not kids! Never use these tools unless you have your parent's permission and supervision.
- Stay away from anything hot! Never run, play or fool around near a fire or a hot stove.
- Never light a candle, strike a match or start a fire without your parent's permission and supervision.
- The fire department is for your safety, not for fun. Never call in a false alarm.
- If your clothes catch on fire, do not run! Instead stop, drop, and roll to put out or “smother” the flames.

Give your children time to sit and admire the beauty of the candle flames. With careful supervision, allow those who are interested to put a finger near a flame to feel the intensity of the heat. Depending on the interest level of your children, share some information about heat and combustion.

Next, read the story of Nadab and Abihu from **Leviticus 10:1-5**, a miraculous story of God's “fire power,” then use the questions here to prompt discussion

Questions for discussion

- Would you ever put your finger all the way into the flame? Why not?
- What things can you think of that burn hotter than a candle?
- What can fire be useful for?
- Did you know that the sun is a big ball of fire?
- Who made the sun?
- What did Nadab and Abihu do wrong?
- Why do you think God punished Nadab and Abihu so severely?
- Why do I often remind you not to play with fire?
- What are some ways fire is helpful?
- When is fire scary?

Key concepts

Fire can be safe, beautiful and helpful if it's used carefully, but if it gets out of control it can be scary and harmful. The flame from a candle is hot enough to really hurt a person. Campfires and barbecues are even hotter. The sun is hotter yet, but God is even more powerful than the heat from the sun.

In the story of Nadab and Abihu we learned about two men who did not revere or obey God. They were both priests, and as God's priests, they were supposed to set an example for the people by being very respectful of God. But instead they insisted on offering incense to God, even though God had said only their father, Aaron, was allowed to do that job. As Nadab and Abihu rebelliously lit their incense, fire from the presence of God came down from heaven and killed them.

This story might make someone think that God is like a fireball in the sky, looking for bad people to burn up. But that's not what God is like at all. God doesn't want to hurt people. He is slow to get angry; He is loving and He is willing to forgive sin (Psalm 103:8-13, 2 Peter 3:9). However, stories like this help remind us that God is very powerful and He is very serious when He says we should keep sin out of our lives.

The Bible tells us that God will bless and care for those who love and obey Him (Deuteronomy 30:15-20). His commands are like "life safety rules."

In closing, invite your children to list some sins that disappoint and anger God. Extinguish a candle each time one is shared. Pray this prayer together, or a similar one:

Dear God, You are patient with us and slow to get angry. We are thankful that You don't pay us back for the wrong things we do. Instead You pour tons of love on us and forgive us. The sky is far, far away from the earth and we thank you for taking our sins that far away. We want to learn to live in a way that honours You. Please teach us to obey and respect You and to love You lots and lots! Amen.

Relevant Scripture

Deuteronomy 4:35-36,39-40 "To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord is God; there is no other besides Him. Out of heaven He let you hear His voice, that He might discipline you. And on earth He let you see His great fire, and you heard His words out of the midst of the fire. . . . know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. Therefore you shall keep His statutes and His commandments, which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the Lord your God is giving you for all time."

Hebrews 12:28-29 "Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."

A lesson inside an Oreo

fun with food

Give each of your children an Oreo cookie, and let them take a small bite. Now let them open the cookie. Point out how the black crumbs tenaciously stick to the white filling. Give your children the task of licking the crumbs away until the filling is pure white again.

As your children are enjoying their Oreos, present this short scenario to them. (Or make it even more memorable by having someone actually arrive at your house all filthy.) Afterward, use the discussion questions to talk about God's holiness and His zero tolerance for sin:

Imagine that you have just helped Mom and Dad clean the house from top to bottom. The floors have been washed and vacuumed, the garbage cans emptied, and everything is in order. You've even washed the walls.

But then, just as you sit down together to have a snack to celebrate the completion of the work, your sister comes home from her soccer game. She is all sweaty and completely covered in mud. Your dad tells her that she is welcome to come into the house and sit with the family, but she will need to shower first and leave her dirty clothing in the washing machine.

Your sister, however, says she is too hungry and wants to come in just as she is and sit with the family at the kitchen table.

Do you think Dad will let her come in?

Questions for discussion

- Were you able to clean all the black specks out of your Oreo's icing?
- Have you ever seen our house so clean that there isn't even a speck of dust in it?
- Would it be possible to get every piece of sand, fluff and dirt out of our house?
- If cookie crumbs, sand, dirt, dust and fluff are like

sin, Who is the only One who can get rid of them entirely?

- What do you think Mom or Dad would say if one of your siblings came into the house all dirty?
- What would the dirty person be required to do before they could join you and share a snack?
- What is the thing that God cannot have in His presence?
- Are we holy enough to deserve to be in God’s presence? Is anyone?
- What kind of “cleansing shower” does God offer for those who want to be with Him?
- Is there any sin in your life that you would like to ask God to clean out?

Key concepts

A super clean house is like a super clean heart. We can do our best to tidy our house, and we can make a huge effort to be good – but just like we can’t get all the dirt out of our house, we can’t make ourselves pure enough to be close to God.

God is so perfect that He simply cannot have any sin around Him. God is a holy God and we cannot be with God if we have unforgiven sin in our lives. In much the same way, we wouldn’t like it if a person stomped into our newly cleaned house with muddy feet.

The sister in the story was expected to clean the dirt and mud off herself before coming into the clean house. Likewise, God expects people to allow Him to clean the sin out of their lives before they can spend time with Him in prayer or before they enter heaven.

God is the only One who can forgive our sin and clean the sin out of our lives. The wonderful news is that God promises to make our hearts clean so that we can enjoy being with Him. All we need to do is ask.

*Note: For a more in depth explanation of forgiveness and salvation refer to “The parable of the lost sheep” in the **Bible stories** section of the **forgiveness** lesson.*

Relevant Scripture

Psalm 5:4 “For You are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with You.”

Psalm 24:3-4 “Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Going on a God hunt

physical activity

A God hunt is like a treasure hunt, only better! After you’ve posted Bible verses around the house, let your kids search for these Scripture clues to learn more about who God is and where He lives.

To begin, hide these clues in the locations indicated:

CLUE LOCATION	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Place on a tool or a tool kit.	<p>Question: Where doesn’t God live?</p> <p>Answer: Acts 17:26-27</p> <p>“The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.”</p>

Place on a child's back.

Question: Why did God make us? Is God close to us or far away?

Answer: Acts 17:24

“And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us . . .”

Place on a jug of water.

Question: Where is God?

Answer: Jeremiah 23:23-24

“Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.”

Place on a trunk or box.

Question: Can God be contained?

Answer: 2 Chronicles 6:18

“But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house that I have built!”

Place on or in the fridge.

Question: What does God need from us?

Answer: Psalm 50:9-12

“I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds. For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.”

<p>Place on a stool or an ottoman.</p>	<p>Question: What attitude is God pleased with?</p> <p>Answer: Isaiah 66:1-2</p> <p>“Thus says the Lord: ‘Heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool; what is the house that you would build for Me, and what is the place of My rest? All these things My hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My word.”</p>	<p>Place in or near a sink.</p>	<p>Question: Who can hang out with God?</p> <p>Answer: Psalm 24:3-6</p> <p>“Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. Selah.”</p>
<p>Place on your body.</p>	<p>Question: Where does God want to live?</p> <p>Answer: Ezekiel 36:26-28</p> <p>“And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be My people, and I will be your God.”</p> <p>Answer: 1 Corinthians 3:16</p> <p>“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”</p>	<p>Place beside a baby or on a doll.</p>	<p>Question: How did God come to earth?</p> <p>Answer: John 1:14</p> <p>“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”</p> <p>Answer: Matthew 1:23</p> <p>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).”</p>

Begin your hunt by reading Jeremiah 29:12-13: “Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you. You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart.” Then pray this short prayer:

Dear God, we love You and we want to learn more about You today as we play. Thank you for listening when we pray. Amen.

Next, ask your kids, *Where do you think we should start looking for God?* Listen to their answers, then suggest that the Bible is a good place to get some clues about where God is. Tell your kids that you have hidden Bible verses around the house that will help them find out more about God.

Search around the house together. When you find a clue with a question, invite your kids to try answering the question themselves before you read the answer from Scripture.

Close your adventure by praying and thanking God for being a God who loves to be close to His people. Invite Him to fill your home with the joy and power of His presence.

Key concepts

God is much too big to be contained anywhere. God is like the air: we can't see Him, but He's everywhere! God tells us Himself that He cannot be contained.

God doesn't need anything from us – He made us and He owns the whole world.

The one thing God does want from us is friendship. He sent Jesus to earth so our sins can be forgiven and so we can be friends with Him. The Bible tells us that God lives with those who have asked Him to clean the sin out of their lives and with those who love Him and honour Him.

Recommended resources

For a list of children's stories that reinforce the theme of this lesson, consult the home page for the **reverence** lesson at Kidsofintegrity.com.