

Complete Lesson Plans

Faith Builders 2.0: Building Faith Brick by Brick¹

One Room Sunday School Program

¹ The idea to combine Bible lessons with LEGO builds, the name “Faith Builders,” and part of the lesson sequence was originally published by David Henderson to www.NephilimTheRemnants.com; Faith Builders 2.0 written by Rev. Danyelle Ditmer expands the idea into a complete 13-week curriculum resource for children 5-12

Faith Builders 2.0

Week 1: God Calls Us by Name

Scripture: John 10:3

Build: Name tags

Lesson Materials

Gathering Activity

- a book of baby names
- smartphone or tablet with Internet access

Lesson

- a Bible

Build

- construction blocks
- metal or plastic clips
- super glue
- alphabet letter stickers

Advance Preparation

- super glue clips to construction blocks

Extra Time Activity

- photocopy reproducible 1a

Gathering Activity

Allow kids to take turns using a baby name book to look up the meaning of their names. For some children, it may be necessary to use the Internet. If the meaning of someone's name cannot be found, have others suggest a meaning for that person's name, such as "great laugh" or "filled with kindness."

Introduce the Lesson

Say: Names are important, aren't they? Caregivers choose a certain name for lots of reasons, maybe because it sounds pretty or it's a family name.

Ask: Does anyone want to share the meaning of his/her name with the group?

Say: In the Bible, names were given to people because of their meaning. Let's see if you can guess the name when I tell you the meaning:

- God is with us (*Immanuel*)
- human (*Adam*)
- father of many (*Abraham*)
- laughter (*Isaac*)
- the rock (*Peter*)
- the Lord saves (*Jesus*)

Say: It's fun to learn what different names mean. In Genesis, we learn Adam's very first job was to give all the animals names. That's because God wanted every creature to have a name.

Ask: Why do you think names are important?

Scripture Point

Read: John 10:3

Ask: Why do you think God takes time to know each person's name? How does God knowing our names show God's love for us?

Say: There are many different, unique, and amazing names in the world. We have a bunch right here in this classroom. But there is only one who knows every name in the whole world and that's God!

Build

Say: To help us learn each others' names, we're going to make name tags today using construction blocks and alphabet stickers. Each week, you'll wear these name tags during class and at the end of the program you can take them home.

Direct children to the build area to create a name tag. Allow children to work creatively to design a name tag but caution against making it too heavy to clip.

Store name tags in an easy to find location for future use. If some children were absent during this lesson, offer it as a gathering activity on other Sundays so that everyone has a name tag.

Extra Time Activity

Allow kids to work on a word search as time allows. These may also be sent home for later.

Faith Builders 2.0

Week 2: Cross Power

Scripture: Colossians 1:19-20

Build: Cross or scene of three crosses

Lesson Materials

Gathering Activity²

- craft sticks
- markers
- self-adhesive magnets
- glue dots

Lesson

- a Bible

Build

- construction blocks
- construction building plates
- small post-it notes (for display purposes)³
- markers

Extra Time Activity

- photocopy reproducible 2a

Gathering Activity

Let kids make colorful cross-shaped magnets. For each magnet, glue two craft sticks together using glue dots to form the shape of a cross. Encourage children to colorfully decorate their cross leaving a blank space on the back for the self-adhesive magnet strip. Complete by attaching the magnet strip.

² Children who were absent for lesson 1 may opt to make a construction name tag

³ To showcase the construction builds, create a space in the church where each week's builds can be displayed along with the child's name

Introduce the Lesson

Say: There are a lot of symbols Christians use to express our faith, like a dove, fire or light, and a fish. Of all the symbols, the cross is the most popular and the one most connected to Christianity.

Ask: Why do you think the cross is the most popular Christian symbol?

Say: God loved the world so much that God decided to send Jesus. He came to save people from sin and help them follow God's ways. But not everyone liked Jesus. Some people and leaders wanted Jesus to die because Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. On a dark day, they nailed Jesus to a cross to die. Jesus willingly died on the cross because he knew God had a big plan to make a shameful death into something amazing. And three days later, Jesus was raised from the dead! Jesus defeated sin and death. Because of Jesus, we can live as forgiven people who can follow God's ways and live forever in God's Kingdom. The cross is a symbol of God's love for us through Jesus Christ.

Scripture Point

Read: Colossians 1:19-20

Ask: What does it mean that Jesus reconciled us with God? How did Jesus' death on the cross bring us closer to God?

Say: When Jesus died on the cross, his death wiped away our sins. Just like a great big eraser. Now we can draw closer to God in love and faith. That's why the cross is such a powerful symbol for Christians. It reminds us always of God's love and willingness to die so that we can all follow God's way and live in God's Kingdom.

Build

Say: Today we are going to create our own cross designs to display for the whole congregation. You can build a single cross or make three crosses representing Jesus and the two thieves who were crucified with him.

Direct children to the build area. Allow children to work creatively. Be sure each child writes his/her name on a post-it and attaches it to his/her project for display. Remind children these will not be taken home but will be on display to share with the whole congregation.

Extra Time Activity

Allow kids to work on an activity page as time allows. These may also be sent home for later.

Faith Builders 2.0

Week 3: We are God's Masterpieces

Scripture: Ephesians 2:10

Build: Self-figures

Lesson Materials

Gathering Activity

- construction paper in light colors
- markers or pens
- colored ink pads
- access to wash hands

Lesson

- a Bible

Build

- construction figure pieces
- construction figure accessories, variety
- small post-it notes (for display purposes)
- paper
- markers

Extra Time Activity

- photocopy reproducible 3a

Gathering Activity

Invite kids to make fingerprints and compare with classmates. Demonstrate how to press one fingertip onto an ink pad and firmly press in onto a sheet of construction paper. Slightly roll your fingertip back and forth, then lift it straight upward from the paper to avoid smearing. Kids may make fingerprints on other children's paper as a way of comparing. Use a marker to write the child's name under his/her fingerprint.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: Each one of our fingerprints is unique. That means no one else in the whole world has the same fingerprint pattern. Even identical twins have totally different fingerprints. So you can look completely the same as someone else and still your fingerprints are unique.

Ask: Why do you think every person has different fingerprints?

Say: God created each of us and God loves variety! Every person who has lived, is living, or will live is a unique creation. No one else is just like you. Even down to your fingerprints you are specially made by God.

Scripture Point

Read: Ephesians 2:10

Ask: What is a masterpiece?

Say: A masterpiece is a wonderful creation and the Bible says that each person is a masterpiece made by God. We aren't made from cookie cutters but instead God creates us with special care and attention to be unique to anyone else in the whole world.

Build

Say: To help us remember we are God's masterpieces, we are going to mix and match construction block pieces to create a self-figures. Then, use the paper and markers to write a few things about yourself. You can include things like your favorite color, food, hobby, anything you want to share about the unique person God created in you.

Direct children to the build area. Allow children to work creatively. Be sure each child writes his/her name on a post-it and attaches it to his/her project for display. Tell children these will be added to their name tags and can be taken home at the end of the program.

Extra Time Activity

Allow kids to work on “All About Me” activity page as time allows. These may also be sent home for later or displayed with their Construction builds.

Faith Builders 2.0

Week 4: God Created Everything

Scripture: Genesis 1:1

Build: Free Build

Lesson Materials

Gathering Activity

- photocopy reproducible 4a onto heavy paper
- markers and crayons
- misc. decorative materials
- scissors

Lesson

- a Bible

Build

- construction blocks
- construction accessories
- construction plates
- small post-it notes (for display purposes)
- markers

Extra Time Activity

- photocopy reproducible 4b

Gathering Activity

Invite kids to creatively decorate a butterfly using markers, crayons, and other materials on hand. Children may choose to cut out their butterflies

Introduce the Lesson

Say: All of your butterflies are beautiful and colorful. Butterflies have colorful wings so they can hide among bright flowers while they eat nectar. This is a form of camouflage.

Ask: What are some other animals with camouflage or other cool details?

Say: God created so many unique and wonderful creatures! These animals have amazing details that help them survive and thrive in the world. The first story in the Bible tells us God created all things and that everything was good.

Scripture Point

Read: Genesis 1:1

Say: God knows exactly what details to include in creation so that all things are very good, like when God gave certain animals camouflage. God is our Creator. God created everything in the whole world and God did so with attention to detail

Build

Say: Today we are going to have a free build, but I want you to think about the details of what you build. You may decide to create a building or makeup an animal or anything else in your imagination. Whatever you choose, think about how the little details, like the choice of Construction blocks or the placement of blocks, is important to your creation.

Direct children to the construction area. Allow children to work creatively. Be sure each child writes his/her name on a post-it and attaches it to his/her project for display. Remind children these will not be taken home but will be on display to share with the whole congregation.

Extra Time Activity

Allow kids to work on a coloring sheet as time allows. These may also be sent home for later.

Faith Builders 2.0

Week 5: God is Love

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-10

Build: Hearts

Lesson Materials

Gathering Activity

- photocopy reproducible 5a onto color paper
- envelopes or baggies
- markers
- scissors

Advance Preparation

- cut out heart shapes (optional)

Lesson

- a Bible

Build

- construction blocks
- construction building plates
- small post-it notes (for display purposes)
- half-sheets of paper
- markers

Extra Time Activity

- photocopy reproducible 5b

Gathering Activity

Invite kids to write names of people, things, activities they love on the heart shapes. Encourage children to share and use a variety of colors. If hearts were not cut out in advance, ask children to cut out the heart shapes and place in envelopes or baggies.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: There sure are a lot of things and people we love! I made some hearts too. I love my children. I love pizza. And I love diet coke.

Ask: Do you think I love my children in the same way that I love pizza and diet coke?

Say: We use the word love in a lot of different ways, usually to say how much we like or enjoy something or someone. But there is a deeper kind of love we learn from God. It's real love.

Scripture Point

Read: 1 John 4:7-10

Ask: What did God do to teach us about real love? (*God sent Jesus*)

Say: God showed us how much God loves every person by sending Jesus to teach us the best ways to follow God. And because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we have the opportunity to know and love God.

Ask: How do you think we can share this kind of real love with others?

Say: There are so many ways to love others but the one thing they all have in common is that we are doing something. Love is an action word! That means as much as I love eating pizza, I'm not really loving the pizza the same way that I love my children when I take care of them every day. When we love other people, we love them the way God loves us through Jesus Christ by helping, caring, and showing kindness.

Build

Say: Hearts are a good reminder of love. Today we are going to make hearts using construction blocks. I hope you will be creative in how you build a heart. When you are done, write down three ideas on how you can love others the same way God loves us. These are going to be on display with your hearts.

Direct children to the build area Allow children to work creatively. Be sure each child writes his/her name on a post-it and attaches it to their project for display. Remind children these will not be taken home but will be display to share with the whole congregation.

Extra Time Activity

Allow kids to work on a maze as time allows. These may also be sent home for later.

Faith Builders 2.0

Week 6: The Holy Spirit Makes Us Fruity

Scripture: Galatians 5:22-23a

Build: Fruit

Lesson Materials

Gathering Activity

- photocopy reproducible 6a onto heavy paper
- scissors

Lesson

- a Bible

Build

- construction blocks
- construction plates
- small post-it notes (for display purposes)
- markers

Extra Time Activity

- learn the Fruit of the Spirit song⁴
- tech to show YouTube video

Gathering Activity

Invite kids to create a Fruit of the Spirit matching game by cutting out 36 pieces. As time allows, children can play the game to learn the meaning of each fruit by matching it with a Scripture verse or situation. Nonreaders will be able to enjoy the game by matching the fruit pictures.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: The game you've been working on has pictures of all kinds of different fruit.

⁴ Fruit of the Spirit by Uncle Charlie, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFumjSll68s>

Ask: What is your favorite fruit to eat?

Say: But not all fruit is the kind you eat. There are special fruits given by the Holy Spirit to help us live the ways of God.

Scripture Point

Read: Galatians 5:22-23a

Say: When we love God and try to follow God's ways, God gives us the Holy Spirit to help guide us. And the Spirit fills our hearts with spiritual fruit we can use to serve God and others.

Ask: What are some ways we can love others? How can we show more joy? What are some acts of kindness?

Say: Those are all wonderful suggestions. And the more we do, the more fruit we grow! That's just what God wants for us. When we put our spiritual fruit to work in serving God and others, then it multiplies and spreads.

Build

Say: To help us remember God's Holy Spirit makes us fruity, we are going to build construction block fruit. You can choose any fruit you want, you can even create a new fruit. When you are done, assign one of the fruit of the Spirit to your fruit creation and write what it means to you.

Direct children to the build area. Allow children to work creatively. Be sure each child writes his/her name on a post-it and attaches it to his/her project for display. Remind children these will not be taken home but will be on display to share with the whole congregation.

Extra Time Activity

Invite kids to learn the Fruit of the Spirit song using a YouTube video.

Faith Builders 2.0

Week 7: Go Fish

Scripture: Matthew 4:19

Build: Fish

Lesson Materials

Gathering Activity

- yarn
- long stick
- tape
- magnetic tape or magnet
- scissors
- photocopy reproducible 7a onto heavy paper
- paper clips, one per fish

Advance Preparation

- cut out 3-4 fish per child and attach one paper clip to each fish
- create a fishing rod to share by taping yarn to a stick and attaching a magnet or magnet tape at the other end

Lesson

- a Bible

Build

- construction blocks
- construction plates
- construction accessories
- small post-it notes (for display purposes)
- markers

Extra Time Activity

- photocopy reproducible 7b
- crayons

Gathering Activity

Before class, set up a fishing pond with the paper fish. As children arrive, let them take turns fishing. To make the game more challenging, the child fishing may turn around and be guided by another child to locate a fish.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: Fishing is a lot of fun, especially when you can fish with your friends. Being a fisherman was a very popular job in New Testament times. Since most people couldn't afford fresh meat, like chicken or beef, they fished or bought fish for their meals.

Ask: Does anyone know which disciples were fisherman? (*Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John*)

Scripture Point

Read: Matthew 4:19

Ask: What do you think it means to be "fishers of people?"

Say: It's a fun play on words. It doesn't mean we're going to try to catch people with fishing poles. Instead, it means we are going to follow Jesus' example and tell others about God's love and God's ways. Then, they will want to become followers of Jesus, too.

Ask: How is fishing for people like fishing for fish? How does telling others about Jesus help them? What are some ways we can lovingly lead others to Jesus?

Say: Jesus asked all his followers to be fishers of people. He wanted us to help spread the good news of salvation and love of God by our words and actions.

Build

Say: Let's make construction block fish to help us remember to be fishers for people by telling them and showing them the loving ways of God.

Direct children to the build area. Allow children to work creatively. Be sure each child writes his/her name on a post-it and attaches it to his/her project for display. Remind children these will not be taken home but will be on display to share with the whole congregation.

Extra Time Activity

Allow kids to work on a coloring page as time allows. These may also be sent home for later.

Faith Builders 2.0

Week 8: Great Builder of the Bible

Scripture: 1 Kings 6:11-13

Build: 25 Block Free Build

Lesson Materials

Gathering Activity

- toothpicks
- mini-marshmallows (small balls of play doh will also work)

Lesson

- a Bible

Build

- small post-it notes (for display purposes)
- markers
- construction blocks
- construction accessories
- plastic cups

Advance Preparation

- sort 25 random Construction pieces into a plastic cup, one per child

Extra Time Activity

- photocopy reproducible 8a
- Children's Bible dictionary

Gathering Activity

As children arrive, challenge them to build something using only toothpicks and mini-marshmallows.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: It's amazing all the cool structures you have made just using toothpicks and mini-marshmallows!

Ask: What were some of the building challenges?

Say: Building with toothpicks and mini-marshmallows isn't easy and doesn't make for a very strong and sturdy object. When you want to build something really strong and sturdy, blocks are a great choice. That's what King Solomon used to build the Temple.

Scripture Point⁵

Read: 1 Kings 6:11-13

Ask: Why do you think Solomon built the Temple?

Say: In the Old Testament, we learn God lived among the people of Israel first in the tabernacle. The tabernacle was a tent-like place that could easily move around when the Israelites were still wandering in the desert. But once they had found the Promised Land, they built the Temple so that God could be with the people.

Ask: Do you know where God lives today? *(be sure to affirm all answers while guiding children to understanding God dwells in our hearts)*

Say: God doesn't need a building anymore to live among us because God sent the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts. We are the new temple of God! Not a building made from blocks, but God is in our hearts helping us to follow God's ways through our words and actions.

Build

Say: Solomon built the Temple with great care and thoughtfulness because it was a place for God to live. Today you can build anything you want but you can only use the blocks pieces in your cup. So, think carefully about how you will use each piece to create your build.

⁵ Children may eat the mini-marshmallows from their creation or take the structure home

Direct children to the build area. Allow children to work creatively. Be sure each child writes his/her name on a post-it and attaches it to his/her project for display. Remind children these will not be taken home but will be on display to share with the whole congregation.

Extra Time Activity

Allow kids to work on the map of Solomon's Temple as time allows. Encourage kids to look up words that may be unfamiliar, like Nazarites, Sanhedrin, and Levites. These may also be sent home for later.

Faith Builders 2.0

Week 9: Building Strong Foundations

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-27

Build: House

Lesson Materials

Gathering Activity

- magazines with plenty of pictures of homes, rooms, etc.
- scissors

Lesson

- a Bible

Build

- small post-it notes (for display purposes)
- markers
- construction blocks
- construction accessories
- construction plates

Extra Time Activity

- photocopy reproducible 9a onto heavy paper
- magazines pictures from gathering activity
- crayons
- glue

Gathering Activity

As children arrive, ask them to cut out pictures from magazines to create a dream house.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: This morning you've spent some time looking through magazines to find images of your dream home.

Ask: Does anyone want to share a few pictures you picked or ideas that you have for your dream home?

Say: These homes sound amazing! But, one thing I noticed you left out was the foundation of your home. Surely you're not planning to try to build a house on thin air?! You need a solid foundation to build a house so that it won't tumble down.

Scripture Point

Read: Matthew 7:24-27

Say: In the parable of the wise and foolish builders, Jesus teaches about building our lives on a firm foundation. Just like a house, we need a sturdy foundation so that we won't tumble down when things get rough.

Ask: How does Jesus give us a firm foundation?

Say: Life is full of joy and happiness, but sometimes we experience sadness and hard times, like when we have a fight with a friend or have a bad day at school. In those times, especially, we need to rely on God to help us. A firm foundation of faith and trust in God will always help us.

Ask: How can we strengthen our foundation with God?

Say: By building a strong foundation with God during the good times through things like prayer, attending church, and learning the Bible, we are prepared to face the hard times in life. If we build our lives on faith and trust in Jesus, then we can make it through anything!

Build

Say: To help us remember to build our lives on the firm foundation of faith in Jesus, we are going to build block houses. Be sure you pay special attention to the foundation to support your house.

Direct children to the build area. Allow children to work creatively. Be sure each child writes his/her name on a post-it and attaches it to his/her project for display. Remind children these will not be taken home but will be on display to share with the whole congregation.

Extra Time Activity

Allow kids to create a 3D house as time allows. Children may choose to decorate with pictures they cut out from magazines during the gathering time. These may also be sent home for later.

Faith Builders 2.0

Week 10: Books of the Bible

Scripture: Psalm 119:11

Build: Books of the Bible Tower

Lesson Materials

Gathering Activity

- cotton swabs
- lemon juice
- white paper
- lamp with a light bulb (no shade)

Lesson

- a Bible

Build⁶

- 66 2x12 construction blocks, per child
- 2 2x16 construction blocks, per child
- photocopy reproducible 10a onto return address labels⁷, one set per child
- scissors
- large bags (to help take home)

Extra Time Activity

- learn the Books of the Bible song⁸
- tech to show YouTube video

Gathering Activity

As children arrive, invite them to write secret messages using lemon juice on white paper. The messages are revealed when the paper moves back and forth

⁶ Children will take home these blocks to help learn the Books of the Bible

⁷ Avery 08167

⁸ Books of the Bible uploaded by Donna Berry, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laenC7dgY5c>

in front of a light bulb as the lemon juice turns brown. Kids can make extra secret messages to take home and show their families.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: I hope you all had fun creating secret messages. It's a fun trick that points us to an important lesson: Just like that light revealed the secret messages you wrote, the light of Scripture reveals to us the ways of God.

Ask: Why do you think we should learn Scripture?

Scripture Point

Read: Psalm 119:11

Say: When we take time to learn God's Word, we get to know God better and learn how God wants us to live. Scripture tells us everything we need to know about being a follower of Jesus Christ. It's our guide book.

Ask: How does learning about God's Word show that we love God? How can reading Scripture draw us closer to God?

Say: We need to read and study Scripture because it guides us in the best ways to love God and love others. If we don't know it, we can't do it!

Ask: Does anyone know why we call God's Word "the Bible?" (*Bible literally means "the books"*)

Say: The Bible is a collection of 66 different books written by many different people over a long period of time. We call the Bible God's Word because God guided those who wrote the Bible. There are two parts in the Christian Bible.

Ask: Does anyone know the two main parts of the Bible?

Say: The Old Testament and the New Testament are the two main parts of the Bible. The Old Testament tells about the history and promise of a savior. And the New Testament tells about the birth, life, and teachings of Jesus Christ who is the promised savior.

Build

Say: One of the basic skills we need to learn Scripture is to be able to find our way around the Bible. We are going to make a Books of the Bible build today. Cutting in half peel and stick labels, each brick will be labeled with the name of one book. The two big blocks are for the labels Old Testament and New Testament. When you're done, you'll have a fun game to learn the books of the Bible and their order.

Direct children to the build area. Children will take home this Construction build to practice learning the Books of the Bible. Encourage them to build the tower along with the music during the extra time activity.

Extra Time Activity

Invite kids to learn the Books of the Bible song using a YouTube video.

Faith Builders 2.0

Week 11: A Rainbow of Promises

Scripture: Psalm 91:2

Build: Rainbow

Lesson Materials

Gathering Activity

- photocopy reproducible 11a onto heavy paper
- hat or bag

Lesson

- a Bible

Build

- small post-it notes (for display purposes)
- markers
- construction blocks
- construction accessories
- construction plates

Extra Time Activity

- photocopy reproducible 11b

Gathering Activity

Using the animal cards, play a game of charades. As children arrive, have them take turns choosing a picture from the hat or bag to act out an animal while the other children guess. Children may also choose to think of an animal to act out for the game.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: There are so many animals in the world and scientists are discovering new ones every day! We can see a lot of these animals at the zoo.

Ask: Speaking of zoos, can anyone tell me a Bible story about a famous zoo-keeper?

Say: Noah's Ark was a huge floating zoo. Noah took care of all the animals on his huge boat. But there is so much more to the story than animals. The story of Noah and his really big boat is about obeying God and God's promises.

Scripture Point⁹

Ask: Why did God decide to flood the whole earth? (*people were sinful and didn't follow God's ways*) What did God ask Noah to build for to save his family and the animals? (*an ark*) Why did God choose Noah? (*Noah was a righteous man*)

Say: God was sad that everything God had made seemed to be spoiled. But there was still hope! God knew Noah was a good person. When God asked for Noah's help, Noah trusted God's instructions and he worked for many months to build an ark to survive the great flood.

Ask: How long did the rains fall? (*40 days and 40 nights*) How did Noah determine if dry land was nearby? (*he sent a dove out three times and on the third try it didn't return*) What was the first thing Noah did when he got off the ark? (*built an altar to God*)

Read: Psalm 91:2

Say: The flood must have been very scary, but Noah trusted God to take care of him, his family, and the animals on the ark. Noah and his family were so happy the flood was over that they built a special place to give thanks to God.

Ask: What sign did God put in the sky as a promise never to flood the whole earth again? (*a rainbow*)

⁹ Since the story of Noah's ark is so familiar to most children, this lesson includes more questions to allow them to help tell the story

Say: The rainbow was a sign for Noah and us to remember God's promise that there will never be such a flood again. Even better, though, God sent Jesus Christ for everyone. Through Jesus, we can learn God's way and have a relationship with God. That makes God feel wonderful because God loves us!

Build

Say: To help us remember God's promise to Noah and all the promises we have through Jesus Christ, we are going to build a rainbow.

Direct children to the build area. Allow children to work creatively. Be sure each child writes his/her name on a post-it and attaches it to his/her project for display. Remind children these will not be taken home but will be on display to share with the whole congregation.

Extra Time Activity

Allow kids to work on a word search as time allows. These may also be sent home for later.

Faith Builders 2.0

Week 12: The Calling of Elijah

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:11-13

Build: Time partner build

Lesson Materials

Gathering Activity

- noise makers/music

Lesson

- a Bible

Build

- small post-it notes (for display purposes)
- markers
- photocopy reproducible 12a
- construction blocks
- construction accessories
- construction plates
- timer

Extra Time Activity

- photocopy reproducible 12b

Gathering Activity

As children arrive, invite them to play a whisper game. You can get the game started by whispering something to the first person, who will whisper it to the next person, etc. The last person can say the word or phrase out loud, which usually has changed. Allow children to take turns starting off the game. To make the game more challenging, use longer phrases and/or encourage loud noise in the room to distract children.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: I hope you had fun playing the whisper game. The key to the game is very simple: You have to listen carefully!

Ask: What are some of the challenges of a simple game like this?

Say: Listening sounds like an easy thing to do, but sometimes it's hard for us to hear when there is so much going on around us. Maybe especially when we are listening for God. That was true of Elijah. He was one of God's prophets, but he had become very afraid by things that were happening around him and he ran away. He wanted to give up, but God asked Elijah to meet on top of a mountain.

Scripture Point

Read: 1 Kings 19:11-13

Ask: What were the things that came before Elijah knew God was on the mountain? What thing helped Elijah know God was with him on the mountain?

Say: God picked Elijah to be a special messenger. God may not ask us to do the same things as Elijah. But God wants everyone to do one thing Elijah did: Listen. Elijah needed to run away from everything to a very quiet and lonely place to listen to what God wanted to say. Only then could Elijah hear God calling. I hope you have a quiet place or time when you can listen for God calling you.

Build

Say: To help us sharpen our listening skills, we are going to work on a timed partner build today. Working in groups of two, take turns building a Construction animal based solely on your partner's instructions. You only have *(be sure to allow enough time for everyone to have a turn)* to complete your build before you switch with your partner.

Direct children to the build area. Allow children to work creatively. Be sure each child writes his/her name on a post-it and attaches it to his/her project for display. Remind children these will not be taken home but will be on display to share with the whole congregation.

Extra Time Activity

Allow kids to work on a coloring page as time allows. These may also be sent home for later.

Faith Builders 2.0

Week 13: Celebration Sunday

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Build: Various

Materials

Mask

- photocopy reproducible 13a onto heavy paper
- wide ribbon
- hole punch
- scissors
- crayons or markers

Celebration Snacks

- yellow paper cups
- blue square paper plates
- cheese cubes
- grapes
- crackers
- miscellaneous construction block themed foods

Timed Tower Build

- construction blocks
- construction plates
- timer

Creationary

- construction blocks
- construction accessories
- construction plates
- party tray or individual cups (for sorting blocks by color)
- photocopy reproducible 13b onto heavy paper, one set only

Advance Preparation

- sort blocks by color
- cut out creationary cards

Coloring Page

- photocopy reproducible 13c
- crayons and markers

Gathering Activity

Invite kids to make a mask. Encourage creativity. Assemble the masks by cutting out the template, punching a hole in each side, and attaching ribbon to tie.

Faith Builders Wrap-Up

Say: I have had such a great time with Faith Builders. We have learned a lot about the Bible and following God and made some cool Construction builds.

Ask: What was your favorite block build? What did it teach you about God?

Say: Construction blocks are a fun way for us to learn about God. Even though Faith Builders is coming to an end, we need to continue to build our faith by learning more and more about God.

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Say: My hope is that each of you will remember all that you've learned through Faith Builders and continue to build up your own faith and encourage others in their faith.

Ask: How can we build up our faith? How can we help others build faith?

Say: There are a lot of things we can do to build our faith, like reading the Bible, attending church, asking questions about God. In big and small ways we can build up our faith to be strong and sturdy followers of Jesus Christ.

Celebration Activities

Snacks

- Serve children snacks being mindful of any food allergies

Timed Tower Build

How to Play

- Children have 3 minutes to build the tallest tower they can without it falling over

Construction Creationary

How to Play

- Children take turns trying to get others to guess what they are building from construction blocks
- The game cards provide pictures of what to make
- Whoever guesses correctly goes next, unless they have already had a turn, in which case they can pick someone who has not built yet

Coloring Page

- Make coloring pages available for children who choose to color