

Work. What adjectives pop into mind when you think of "work"?

Work fills a good portion of our everyday lives. Children and adults have work to do whether it is paid work or unpaid such as folding the laundry or making the bed. For various reasons that stem from movements in history to today's culture, somehow God and work have become separated. We often consider activities such as prayer and reading the Bible as ones that God is most involved in and pleased with. Yet, a look at the Bible will reveal that God Himself is a worker, has designed us for work and has a deep value for our work. When we realize God cares greatly for our work and is in it, we can discover a whole new intimacy with God and find new meaning in our work, as we share the times we work, with Him.

This 12 lesson curriculum is designed as a free resource to teach children to see work through God's perspective and learn that work is a good thing!

For each lesson the curriculum includes:

- ✓ a Large Group lesson
- ✓ Small group activities
- ✓ Slides to accompany the lesson
- ✓ a Parent's Take-Home Sheet to work through the lesson together during the week
  - Most of a child's understanding of God comes from a child's parent/guardian.
     The time you spend together talking through who God is and living out these beliefs together as a family are invaluable, transforming and have potential to make eternal impact!

### **About the Author:**

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# Lesson 1 "God is a WORKER!" Large Group Lesson

-Lesson 1 slides

MAIN IDEA: God is a worker.

### **OPENING**

Leader

-A potted plant-A painting and brush-A gym weight (the bigger the better)-A crown

The Bible tells us who God is and what He's like. God is loving, compassionate, good, perfect, and holy. I have 3 objects here with me today – a crown, a plant, and a paintbrush. Which of these do you think shows best who God is? (Hold up one object at a time and ask children to raise their hands if they think that object is the one that best shows who God is.)

Actually, ALL of these show who God is. One is not better than another because God is ALL of these and so much more.

How do you think a crown shows who God is? (Invite children's responses.) Yes, God is King. He is Ruler over our world, this planet, the galaxies – everything! There is no one more powerful or bigger than God.

How do you think a gym weight shows who God is? (Invite children's responses.) Yes, God is strong. God also designed muscles and speed. He knows the joy of running, being coordinated, and being fast.

How does a paintbrush show who God is? (Invite children's responses.) Yes, God is creative. Look at how different all these animals and plants are. (show Slide 2) Your fingerprint is not like anyone else's. God is an artist!

How do you think a plant shows who God is? (Invite children's responses.) Yes, God is a worker. Genesis shows God creating light, sky, land, seas, planting a garden and creating all kinds of living things. There are over 950,000 kinds of insects on earth today. Though the exact number is not known, there are about 400,000 species of plants. God created so many different things with incredible detail. Genesis shows God getting His hands in dirt to make the first human being.

Let's take a look at today's Scripture.

-Slide 2

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Read aloud or ask a child to stand and read for the group.

Genesis 2:4-9 (Slide 3)

<sup>4</sup> This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

<sup>5</sup> Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, <sup>6</sup> but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

<sup>8</sup> Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. <sup>9</sup> The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground — trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

### Leader

Work means putting in energy or effort to produce something. What are the ways you see God working in this passage? (Invite children's responses.)

(As children respond, draw the answers or write the key words (underlined below) on large Post-Its or whiteboard. The visual will help some children remember. If there's a child who can draw well, invite him to be the drawer.)

Yes, God made the heavens and the earth. God made streams to water the ground because he had not yet sent rain. God formed a man from the dust and breathed life into him. Verse 8 tells us that God planted a garden and made all kinds of trees to grow.

God was very busy making the world. He is a worker. Genesis 2 shows us God working on making the world. But did God make the world and then stop working? Of course not! How do we see God working today? (Invite children's responses)

-Whiteboard or large easel paper -Whiteboard markers

-Slide 3

We can see God at work in each of our lives. He takes care of us, provides for what we need. God is at work in neighborhoods, cities, nations and the world.

### LARGE GROUP CLOSING

### Leader

(Hold up objects from the beginning of the lesson) Can anyone tell me, which of these best show who God is? Yes, you're right! ALL of them show who God is. God is King, He is strong, He is artistic and He is a worker. In the coming weeks, we'll learn more about how God sees work, that work is much more than "just" work, the part God has for each of us to play, and how we can partner as God's co-workers.

Let's pray. God, today we learned that You are a worker. You are a King who rules over everything, and yet, instead of just sitting back on your throne, You work every single moment to take care of Your children. Thank you for being such a good God. Help us to see You in our own work, as we do homework, help out at home, and do chores. We know You're in it with us. We love You and bless You, in Jesus' name, amen!

-A crown

# Lesson 1 "God is a WORKER!" Small Group Time - Activity Guide

-3 Post-Its/pieces of paper per student -Pencils

5 minutes Opening Activity: Sharing Work I Enjoy Have kids share one kind of work they enjoy. It could be an occupation or an activity like drawing or fixing things. It could be something they do or something they have seen others do.

Teacher Tip: What you share will help set the tone for the sharing. Think of something specific that you enjoy and be ready to share.

Review: Each of us are quite different. God made us that way. The things you enjoy doing are a special way God created for you to make a difference in this world.

- "God at Work" Charade Cards

### 10 minutes "God at Work" Charades

Stack the cards in the middle with the words hidden. Pair children up or have one child perform the action. Each student or team will pick one card from the pile and act out the kind of work God does. The other children will guess. The rule in guessing is that children have to respond by starting with "God is...."

Review: God is at work every minute of the day all over the world. He loves us and cares very much for every person.

### 10 minutes Work Word Search

Post the sheet on the wall. Give each child a Bible to work with. Read Genesis 2:4-9 with students. Have students form a relay line on the other side of the room from the sheet. Students run across one by one to find a word or phrase and either **circle** the word(s) that can be found in Genesis 2:4-9 or **cross out** the work word(s) that don't appear in the passage.

### 5 minutes God at Work Popcorn Game

In Genesis we find God creating many things. Set the timer for 5 minutes. Sit in a circle and go around the circle, calling out something God created – i.e. bananas, monkeys, lions, humans, etc. The goal is to name as many things God created as possible before 5 minutes is up.

### 5 minutes Share & Pray

Ask if any students have any prayer requests to share. Pray for these requests and thank God for being actively at work in each life.

- A large paper with the words "made, formed, breathed, planted, put, created, sent" written randomly. Around these words, write other random work words such as hammered, weeded, dug, separated, etc..

-Bibles -Marker

-Timer

### "God at Work" Charade Cards

<b>Making</b> things grow	<b>Designing</b> a meeting space (example: Tabernacle)
<b>Sending rain</b> on the ground	<b>Making</b> a human being
<b>Listening</b> to someone	<b>Dividing</b> the Red Sea
<b>Healing</b> a sick person	Teaching people how to live
Breathing into a human being to bring them to life	<b>Changing</b> a person's heart

## Lesson 1 "God is a WORKER!" Parents' Sheet

This Week's Focus: God is a Worker!

This week we learned that God is a worker – Genesis shows God as a Gardener! (Gen. 2:8) He is actively at work, and the important role work plays in our own lives is one way we reflect God's image. Today's lesson introduced the idea that God is a worker and showed ways God is at work even today. We usually describe God with characteristics such as holy, good, just, kind, merciful, and generous. We often think of God as King, Ruler, and Lord – images that might convey being above or beyond work. Over the following lessons of this series we will see that God works and God is IN work and children will be able to see that one of the most important ways they reflect the image of God in this world is as they work.

### Do This Week's Workout: God Hunt!

The Weekly Workout is a great way you can "work" out the week's focus with your child – in action. God IS at work. As you go, see how many ways you can find God at work. It may be things you see, words you read or hear, smells in the air!

- 1) Choose a place with your child to take a local trip or walk.

  Suggestions: Take a walk through the park, playground or grocery store.
- 2) Before you enter, explain that each of you will look for different ways that you see God at work. If children desire, they can take a notepad to jot down or even draw their thoughts.
- 3) Walk through the area and share as you go.

Example:

As you walk through a playground, you can notice that God is so creative – each child and parent/guardian looks and acts quite differently. Take time to point out some of the different personalities and styles you see.

As you walk through a grocery store, take the time to smell the different produce. It took a lot of time, sunshine, rain, water, and hard work to make each thing grow and finally get to the point of being picked and packaged for the store. God provided all of that. God provides jobs through the store, which then helps provide many more things for employees and their families.

Or – if you're unable to go outside, have each family find a job in the Bible. Talk about how God might use those jobs.

#### Talk about It:

How was it to look for God at work? Was it hard? Easy? Did you find more of God at work than you expected to see? What were some of your favorite finds?



Lesson 1: God is a Worker



### Genesis 2:4-9

<sup>4</sup> This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

<sup>5</sup> Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, <sup>6</sup> but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

<sup>8</sup> Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. <sup>9</sup> The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

# Lesson 2 "A Partner, Not a Robot!" Large Group Lesson

-Lesson 2 slides

MAIN IDEA: God created us to be partners in His work.

### **OPENING**

### Robot ("Simon Says") Game

Call up 3 to 5 kids to play the game. Like Simon Says children will only be given verbal cues first using the phrase "robots" instead of "Simon Says". When not using the term "robots," children should not obey (similar to Simon Says).

**Examples of cues:** Robots, march in place. Robots, run in place. Robots, walk in place very slowly. Robots, stop. Robots, jump up and down. Robots, jump faster! Stop! (see if any children stop. If so, they are out since the word "robots" was not used.) Have fun and invite children to be silly – for example, Robots, pretend you are a tree. Robots, stand on one leg. Robots, scratch your armpits. Robots, sneeze. Robots, keep sneezing.

### MAIN LESSON

#### Leader

-Slide 2

Genesis 1:27 tells us that God made human beings, you and I, "in his image." [Slide 2] To be made in someone's image means that what is made is like the original person. You are made in God's image – meaning that when someone looks at you, there are many things about you that show who God is. We are able to think, create, design, run, fix and grow things because God made us to be like Him. God didn't make us robots that just do what He tells us to.

How cool is that? Look at someone next to you and tell them, "I see God in you!"

One of the ways you and I reflect God's image is that just like God, we work!

Robots and humans both work. But what's the difference between how a robot works and how a human being works? (Invite children's responses. As kids respond, write each answer on a cardstock and tape to the appropriate clothing hanger so that the answers form a long hanging row of descriptions. Examples of answers could be: Robots do as they are told. Humans think. Humans create. Robots can be turned off. Humans sleep. Humans are alive.)

-2 clothing hangers – one labeled "ROBOT," one labeled "HUMAN" -Several pieces of blank cardstock paper -tape -thick Sharpie marker

Humans are very different from robots, aren't they? God could have made us robots that do exactly what He commands. He could have made us all robots that just take orders and do them. Instead God made us alive -He breathed life into the very first human being! He gave us the ability to think, create, dance, invent, move, figure things out and so much more. When we work, we have freedom to come up with things on our own and do things for ourselves.

Instead of robots, God made us "partners" in His work. A robot is something you command to do things that has no control over its own ability or freedom. A partner is "someone who shares in an action or something you are trying to do or accomplish." (Slide 3)

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Read aloud or ask a child to stand and read for the group.

### Genesis 2:15-20 (Slide 4)

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

<sup>18</sup> The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

<sup>19</sup> Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.<sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

#### Leader What is one of the ways in this passage that you see God inviting humans to partner in work?

Yes, God invites Adam to name the animals He made. How fun is that? God does everything perfectly and is the most creative of all. He could have made the best names – yet, He brings the animals to Adam to see what Adam will come up with. God enjoys getting our input on things and having us partner with Him. He enjoys sharing the experience with us. Can't you just imagine Adam saying, "Hmm, this strange animal that swims that makes funny noises.... The noises kind of sound

-Slide 3

-Slide 4

like.... I know! Let's call it a duck!" I can just picture God and Adam laughing and having a lot of fun.

Today, God is still the same. He enjoys working with us and invites us to be partners in His work! You are created not to be a robot, but a partner.

### LARGE GROUP CLOSING

Leader

Can anyone tell me the difference between being God's robot and being God's partner? (Invite children to respond)

Let's pray. God, we learned today that we were made in Your image. We are like You in the way we work. Not only are we able to work, we were made to partner in Your work. Thank You for sharing Your work with us. It's much more fun and meaningful to be able to create and think than to be robots that just take orders. Help us to discover the cool ways You made us able to work throughout this week. In Jesus' name, amen!

# Lesson 2 "A Partner, Not a Robot!" Small Group Time - Activity Guide

### 5 minutes Opening Activity

Ask children to share a time that they helped somebody do their work. It could have been anyone – perhaps a teacher, parent, sibling, friend, or a stranger. How did they feel in being able to help? What did they enjoy?

### 6 minutes God Made Us His Work Partners Sheets

Ask children to circle the words that describe what a robot and a partner does. They can add their own words to the lists. Point out key items and review the list together.

### 15 minutes "Robots, Partners and Pizza" Game

Place one large circle in the center of the group. Tell the children you will be the Master, and they are the Robots. The circle of paper will be a pizza pie, but they must decorate it the way you tell them. Give out orders, such as, "Robots, put 15 slices of pepperoni on your pie. Robots, put broccoli on your pie. Robots, color your pie green." (Give specific orders, suggesting things that the children might not like on their pie.)

(Alternative – You can invite a child to be the Master and give the orders.)

Place the second circle in the center of the group. Tell the children that now they will be Partners, not Robots. You are all part of a pizza shop and you need their help to create some really creative pizzas. Have them work together to come up with a new pie.

Review: Ask the children: What did you enjoy about being a robot? What did you not like? What did you enjoy about being a partner?

### 5 minutes Share & Pray

Ask for prayer requests and invite a child to pray for the class. Different ideas for praying:

- Circle Prayer Ask each child to pray for the person to his/her right.
   Each child can take turns praying. If they are unsure how to pray, you can model and they can repeat.
- Lead Prayer You can start the prayer and then invite children to add the names or prayer requests they would like to add. Explain that when you pause, they can say a name or request:

Dear Jesus, thank You for our class and for teaching us today that You want us to be partners in Your important work. You know each of us by name. You made each of us and love each of us so very much. You know the things we want to bring to You and right now we lift up

. In Jesus' name, amen!

-God Made Us His Partners worksheets (one copy for each child)

-2 large circles of paper per group of 3-4 children (If you don't have large paper, tape together 4 letter-sized sheets of paper, then cut into a circle)

-Markers/Crayons

God Made		a Partner in His Work!
	(name)	

Circle the words in each column that match the word on top. Cross out what doesn't match. Add your own words to describe what it means to be a "PARTNER" or "ROBOT."

PARTNER	ROBOT
Give ideas	Give ideas
Create	Create
Think on your own	Think on your own
Battery or power source is needed	Battery or power source is needed
Help with the work	Help with the work
Only do as commanded	Only do as commanded
Design	Design
Use hands only as commanded	Walk and move freely
Walk and move freely	Help fix problems
Help fix problems	Laugh together
Laugh together	Enjoy a relationship with God
Enjoy a relationship with God	Talk together
Talk together	Enjoy things (food, looking at art/nature,
Enjoy things (food, looking at art/nature, sports)	sports)

## Lesson 2 "A Partner, not a Robot!" Parents' Sheet

This Week's Focus: I am God's Partner in Work

This week we learned that human beings were made by God in His image. As human beings, we reflect who God is in how we are made – which includes work! What a privilege that instead of being robots that execute His orders, God designed us to be creative, to think like Him and to partner with Him in His work. From the very beginning God invited Adam to help name the animals He made. God desires relationship with us not only through prayer and reading His Word but through work!

### Do This Week's Workout: Project Partners!

The Weekly Workout is a great way you can "work" out the week's focus with your child – in action. Invite the whole family into this time! God IS at work.

God is working all over the world - and right here in your neighborhood, school, and home. Talk together about a place God is working that you can partner and join this week as a family. Pray together and see if there's something – or someone or somewhere! - specific that God brings to mind.

Invite God into the project as you begin.

Here are some suggestions to get ideas rolling:

- Partner in caring for the poor Make sandwiches to give to the local homeless.
- Partner in caring for creation Sign up to volunteer to weed a local park, or go as a family to pick up garbage in an area. (Pack gloves, thick garbage bags, and sanitary wipes.)
- Partner in caring for the lonely Make a card to brighten the day for someone who could use a bit of cheer.
- Partner in welcoming people Take a room in your house that could be made more welcoming when people come over. Think through small things you can do to make it more welcoming and work on it together (For example, paint and hang up a blessing verse on the living room wall, throw away clutter, etc.)

### Talk about it:

What impact did you see from partnering with God? What gifts/abilities that God gave you were you able to use to partner with Him? Take time as a family to point out and affirm the gifts/abilities you saw in action in each other. Be specific, such as "I saw your gift of organization in how you remembered to pack the gloves."



Lesson 2: A Partner, Not a Robot!

## Genesis 1:27

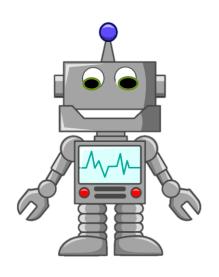
So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

### image

### Noun

1.a physical likeness or representation of a person, animal, or thing, photographed, painted, sculptured, or otherwise made visible.

## Robots vs. Partners



A robot is something you command to do things that has no control over its own ability or freedom.



A partner is "someone who shares in an action or something you are trying to do or accomplish."

## Genesis 2:15-20

of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup> but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

- <sup>18</sup> The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."
- <sup>19</sup> Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

# Lesson 3 "What Work is God up To?" Large Group Lesson

MAIN IDEA: God's Work is Restoration to His Original Design

### **OPENING**

### Leader

Have you ever tried to fix something that was broken? I have a pile of pieces in my hand. Can you guess what it might have been? This container holds the pieces of the mug you see on the screen. Slide 2 If I work very carefully and patiently, I can try to put it back together so that this messy pile of pieces can become the mug it was originally meant to be. That's called "restoration."

[Slide 3] The word "restoration" means to have something return to the original condition. This slide [Slide 4] shows a famous work of art painted by Michelangelo in the 1500s. Today an average of 5 million tourists go each year to see this work. Over time, it became hard to see the original work due to many years of soot, grime and buildup on the original work. Restorers worked painstakingly in the 1980s and 1990s to carefully clean the artwork and reveal its original beautiful colors and design. Here's a detail of the difference [Slide 5]

During the past two weeks, we learned that God is a
\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Invite children to fill in the blank.) Yes,
God is a worker! And He made us not to be robots but
\_\_\_\_\_ in His work. (Invite children to fill in the blank.) We are invited to be partners in God's work.

But what work is God up to? It's a lot tougher than putting a mug back together. To understand the work we are invited to partner in, we need to first take a look at Genesis 3.

God had created a perfect world. His original design was very good. There was no pain in work, and Adam, Eve and God enjoyed a free, loving relationship with each other. It was a joy to tend the garden. God had made a beautiful garden with hundreds of trees and plants. In it, there was one tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, that He told Adam and Eve they should not eat

- -Lesson 3 slides
- -Slide 2
- -Photo of a mug (or other object) that you are willing to break to insert into Slide 1 -Broken pieces of the mug or object broken (break the mug with a hammer and bring in to
- -Slide 3 -Slide 4

show)

-Slide 5

from because they would die. Now let's take a look at what happened next.

-Slide 6

Scripture Lesson: Read aloud or ask a child to stand and read for the group. [Slide 6]

### Genesis 3:1-8

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die."

<sup>4</sup> "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Leader

Remember how God didn't make human beings robots? He could have made it so that humans only did the right thing all the time. But instead, He gave us free will – the ability to choose what we want to do. Adam and Eve were free to choose, and they chose to do things their way instead of trusting God. As soon as Adam and Eve disobeyed, the original design God had for the world was broken. (Snap stick in half for emphasis.) What changes in Adam and Eve's relationship with God do you notice happen immediately? (Invite children to respond.)

Yes, immediately Adam and Eve felt shameful of their nakedness and felt the need to make some kind of covering. And instead of freely talking to God, they were

-a branch or stick

afraid when they heard God walking in the garden and hid. Shame. Fear. Hiding. All these things have now entered God's design. In fact, all relationships were now broken. The four key relationships Adam and Eve had with God, each other, creation, and themselves - were no longer completely good, loving, and trusting. Even when they looked at their own selves, they felt ashamed and guilty, no longer free to just be themselves.

In this terrible moment where Adam and Eve chose against God's desires, what is wonderful to read is the next verse - verse 9. [Slide 7]

<sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

God knows everything. At that moment, as Adam and Eve were hiding in fear, He knew what they had done – and still, He moved towards them instead of yelling or getting rid of them. God always seeks relationship with us, no matter what we have done. Think of a time that you did something wrong. Perhaps you got upset with someone or said something mean. Even when we do something wrong, God always moves towards us in love wanting to work things out with us, instead of turning His back on us.

The original good design that God had for all creation was now broken. But God doesn't give up or get rid of Adam and Eve to start over. Instead, the Bible tells us the story of God's patient love - how over hundreds of years God patiently worked to step into the mess that had been made. Ultimately, God gave His only Son, Jesus, to be born into our world to die for sin once and for all, and pay the price for all of us. Through Jesus, anyone who believes in Him can come to God without fear and have a restored relationship with God – and through this restored relationship with God, we can have a restored relationship with others, ourselves and creation.

As a child of God and member of God's family, we get to partner in God's important work to restore our world back to the original design. To restore something, you have to know what is broken. A ceramic restorer will look at these broken mug pieces and know what it should become. A painting restorer looks at Michelangelo's painting on the ceiling of the Sistine

-Slide 7

-Whiteboard

-Whiteboard markers

Chapel and knows that there are bright colors and details hidden under the layers of dirt he sees.

What are some of the broken things you see in our world? (Invite children to respond.) Write a list by typing into the PPT slide or by writing onto a whiteboard.

Examples: War/People fighting

Broken families Kids who are hungry Lonely people

Bullying

Making fun of others

Can you help me think about what God's design and desire is for these? (Jot down God's plan next to each

listed item.)

Examples: War/People fighting → Loving relationships

Broken families → Families together;

supporting each other

Kids who are hungry → Every kid with enough

food to eat

Homeless → Every person with a safe place to

live

Animal abuse → Every animal is treated with

love and care

Lonely people > Everyone has a friend

Bullying → People say life-giving words to each

other

### LARGE GROUP CLOSING

Leader

So far we have learned that God is a worker and that we are made in His image. Being made in God's image means that we are also created to work. God invites us to join His work of restoring the world back to His original design where relationships with God, people, our own self and creation were not broken but whole and loving.

### LARGE GROUP CLOSING PRAYER

Leader

God, thank you for not leaving our world broken but coming to rescue and restore our world and each of us back to Your original design. Thank you for letting us join you as partners in this important work. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen!

# Lesson 3 "What Work is God up to?" Small Group Time - Activity Guide

-Small dollar store puzzle of at least 9 pieces, no more than 25 pieces.

### 10 minutes Opening Activity: Trivia Review Puzzle

Lay out puzzle pieces on the table or floor. Lay a corner piece out to start. As questions that review past weeks are asked, the child who answers correctly can help add a piece to the puzzle. Continue until the puzzle is complete. Feel free to add your own questions.

### **Questions:**

- 1) What are some of the things God first made when He made the world? Light, sky, waters, animals, plants
- 2) Who created Adam and Eve? God
- 3) Where did Adam and Eve first live? In the Garden with God
- 4) What was one of the first jobs God gave Adam in the Garden? To name the animals God made
- 5) What did God warn Adam and Eve about? To not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
- 6) What did God say would be a consequence of eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil? They would die
- 7) What did Adam and Eve do immediately after eating the fruit? Their eyes were opened and they realized they were naked, so they made coverings out of leaves
- 8) What did God say when Adam and Eve were hiding? God said, "Where are you?"
- 9) What kind of work is God up to today? Restoring the world back to His original design
- 10) What is an important way that God began restoring our world back to the original design? He sent His only Son Jesus to die for sin
- 11) What are the 4 key relationships God is looking to restore? Our relationship with God, each other, creation and our self

### 20 minutes Draw/Write & Chat

Give each child a blank sheet of paper.

1) Ask them to draw or write a description of a place they often go – i.e. school, library, music classes, etc.

Can you share what you've drawn? Where is it? How often do you go?

- 2) Ask children to think about and draw/write down what they might see if everyone there knew God loves them and had a relationship with God. What would be different? For example, everyone in school would want to please God not him or herself. Perhaps Bible verses would be there to encourage people or you would see people praying for each other.
- 3) Ask children to think about and draw/write down what they might see if everyone there had a good relationship with each other.

-Blank sheet of paper for each child -Pencil or colored pencils What would be different? For example, there would be no bullying in school. You might see everyone playing together instead of there being cliques.

4) Ask children to think about and draw/write down what they might see if everyone there took good care of the things around them – plants, desks, lunchroom, books, animals, etc.

What would be different? For example, the classrooms would be clean and things would last longer. You might see things in the classroom shining because they're cleaned and cared for. There would be no trash on the floor.

5) Ask children to think about and draw/write down what they might see if everyone there had a good relationship with their self and could think of themselves the way God wants for them. What would be different? For example, no one would feel ashamed of who he or she is. You might see people who are confident and smiling or people who are trying new things they want to do instead of letting fear get the best of them.

### 5 minutes Share & Pray

Ask children if they have any prayer requests they would like prayer for and feel free to share your own if you have any. Pray for the requests or invite a child to pray for the class.

## Lesson 3 "What Work is God up to?" Parents' Sheet

This Week's Focus: God is Working to Restore the World

This week we learned that God is actively working to restore the world back to His original good design. We see His commitment to do this in how He sent His only Son, Jesus, to pay the price for sin. The primary focus of God's restorative work revolves around four key relationships – our relationship with God, our relationships with each other, our relationship with our self, and our relationship with creation. As children of God, we have the special privilege of partnering with God in His work of restoring these relationships back to His design.

### Do This Week's Workout: Restorers in Action!

The Weekly Workout is a great way you can "work" out the week's focus with your child – in action. Invite the whole family into this time! God IS at work.

Invite God into this time as you begin. Pray together and ask God where He might be inviting you as a family to partner with Him. Together, <u>choose one area</u> from the list below to partner with God in restoring and <u>think about one specific thing you can do together</u> in that area that will help bring this relationship closer to what God desires. Some ideas are listed below to help spark your own:

- Relationships with God
  - Prayer walk a neighborhood As you walk, take turns praying out loud for what you feel led to pray for. You can invite God into homes and families, ask Him to provide jobs for those out of work, etc.
  - Invite a friend to attend church and share a meal afterwards.
- Relationships with each other
  - Each member of the family can think of one relationship that is not doing well and design a way to show love to that person, whether through a card, reaching out to talk to them, etc.
  - Reach out as a family to a neighbor who is alone.
- Relationships with self
  - Ask each family member to take a moment to think about one way he/she struggles in being comfortable in his/her own skin and help each other think together about what would help. Note: It's so important that if you address this, you make the effort to listen and ask questions instead of offering only solutions. Validate and show you care about how what was shared makes the person feel.
- Relationships with creation
  - Think of a way that as a family you can live "greener" lives perhaps only take paper bags from the grocery store or always take recyclable totes when shopping.

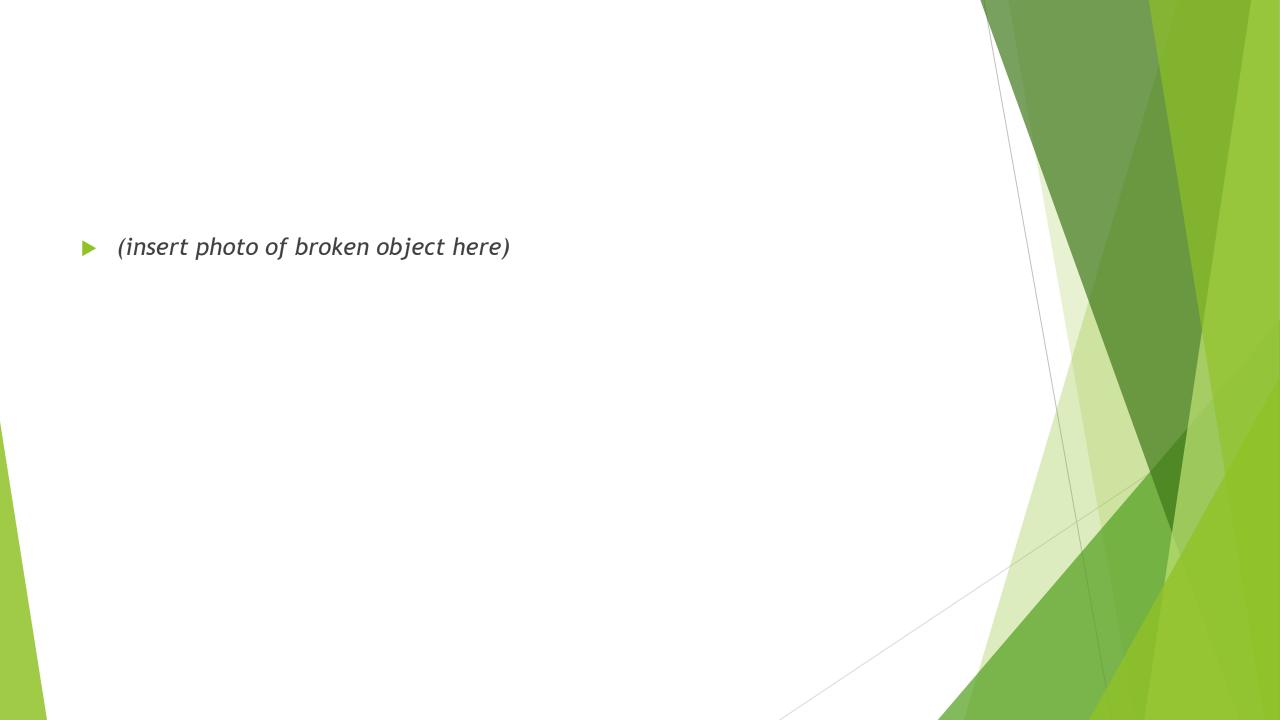
Before you start, pray and ask God for His supernatural strength and presence to multiply the impact of your work.

### Talk about it:

How was it to make intentional effort to partner with God in restoration? What was hard, what was easy? What did you learn about God in the process?



Lesson 3: What Work is God Up To?



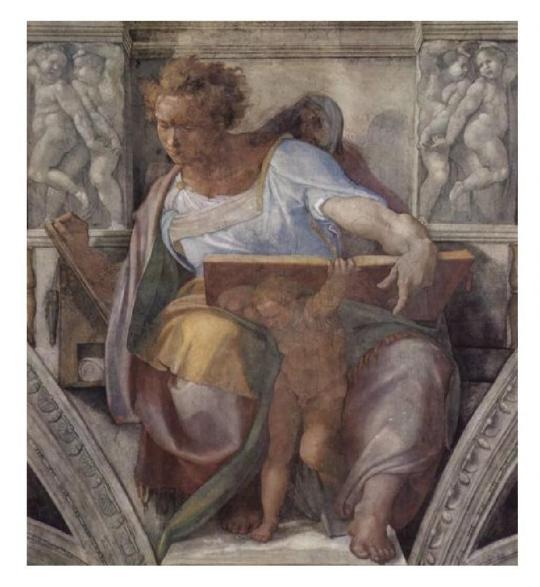
## **Definition**

restoration: The return of something to the original condition.

The Sistene Chapel: Daniel (before and after restoration)



## A detail of the Sistene Chapel: Daniel (before and after restoration)





### Genesis 3:1-8

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die."

<sup>4</sup> "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

<sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

## Genesis 3:9

<sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

# Lesson 4 "Masterpieces are Not for the Sidelines" Large Group Lesson

-Lesson 4 slides

MAIN IDEA: God designed each person uniquely.

#### **OPENING**

### Leader

-Vase -Real flower (lying by the vase)

Take a look at this vase. Someone thought about it and designed the shape, color, look of it. There was thought and time that was put into making this vase. Let me share two scenarios of how this vase could be used.

First - Imagine after all of the thought and work that went into making it, this vase gets put into a storage closet and the door is closed. It just sits there for years, gathering dust on a shelf, unseen and forgotten by everyone. Do you think this is what the vase was made for? No, the vase was made to be seen and used.

Now imagine a different story. Instead of being put into a storage closet and forgotten, it's put in the middle of the living room table. It's used to hold fresh flowers. (Put flower inside vase.) Every day it's seen by people in the family and the guests they have over. The color and design of the vase is seen and enjoyed by others.

Which of these do you think is the best story? Yes. The second story tells a better story, doesn't it? In that story, the vase is being used in the way it was created for and adds something to the lives of others by being seen and used.

The same is true of you! No one in this room, and on this planet, was created by God just to exist and then die. Each of you was created with specific gifts, talents, abilities, and personalities, in specific places and with certain life experiences – not to be hidden away but to use all those things and be part of God's team in working on His project to restore the world.

God never does things in a hurry or sloppily. He is thoughtful and intentional in how He designs. Slide 2 Just think – no two fingerprints in the world are the same. He knows how to make more than 7 billion fingerprints differently! No two people are exactly the same. When God made you, He gave you unique gifts, talents, personalities, and passions. The way you think

about things, the way you like to work, the things you are able to do – are unique to only YOU!

Every single person has a special part to play using the unique ways we are made. In God's Kingdom, no one is created for the sidelines. God's Restoration Project – His work to restore the world back to His original good design – is so big that there is room for every single person on this planet to play a big part! The Project can make use of a team of 7 billion people at one time!

Have you ever thought of yourself as a masterpiece? Ephesians 2:10 [Slide 3] tells us

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

The word here for "handiwork" is also translated as "masterpiece." You are God's masterpiece.

Masterpieces are not created to be put away in a storage closet. Masterpieces are meant to be seen. You were created for good works. Through the unique ways God has made you – you are able to partner with God to accomplish good things.

Scripture Lesson: Read aloud or ask a child to read for the group.

Leader Let's take a look at 1 Corinthians 12:12, 15-20 | Slide 4|

<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ... <sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

When we use who we are for His glory and not ours – introvert or extrovert, creative, mathematical, spontaneous, planner, communicator, doer – whatever it

-Slide 3

-Slide 5

is – we will discover joy because this is what we were created for: to use our gifts and who we are for God.

It would be silly if every part of the body wanted to be an ear. [Slide 5] The body wouldn't function. We would not be able to eat, talk, smell, move, breathe, and so much more.

Every part of the body is important and has a special design and function. The same is true of you! No one in history or on this planet right now is exactly like you. You are able to do things that others can't because of your unique background and abilities.

Take a look at someone near you and tell them – "YOU are a MASTERPIECE!"

A lot of times, the news and television shows focus on certain people over others. Because of this, we might sometimes want to be like a famous athlete or a movie star or leader. But no one can be a copy of another person. God is so creative and loving that he has designed unique life stories for EACH of us. Think about it – it'd be a LOT easier for God to make all of our stories very similar. Instead, He takes the time to design each of us in a unique way. If we are true to how God made us, we will find joy because it's who we're supposed to be and God will receive glory.

Instead of looking at others – today in small group, you will be looking at yourself. What are your gifts and talents? What's your personality? What do you care about? What do you love doing? What do you dislike doing? Let's go discover the nose or ear or tendon or kidney - whoever we are supposed to be!

### Large Group Closing Prayer

Leader

God, You made each of us so uniquely and beautifully. There's not a single person here whose name You don't know. Thank You for loving us so personally. Would You help us to discover what our unique design is? Help us to see and appreciate who we are instead of trying to be like someone else. Bless each person, God, and may each of us live out the design You have given us for Your glory. In Jesus' name, amen.

# Lesson 4 "Masterpieces are Not for the Sidelines" Small Group Time – Activity Guide

#### 5 Minutes Opening Activity: Different from You

Sit in a circle and have each person think of 3 things that they think are probably unique to them and that no one else has done. Go around the circle and have each person share their 3 things. If no one has done any of them they get 3 points. Deduct a point for each thing shared that others have also done.

Review: Though we might have some things that we've done that are similar, how we felt about it is probably not exactly the same. Each of us have been designed quite differently.

-"The Me God Designed" worksheets -pencils

### 15 Minutes Worksheet: The Me God Designed

Have students fill out the worksheet. When completed, have each student share 1 or 2 things from their worksheet with the group.

Review: What do you like the most about yourself? What do you find the most interesting about someone else in the group?

#### 10 Minutes My Puzzle Piece

Have kids decorate their puzzle piece with things that represent who they are. They can use their inventory worksheet for ideas. Piece the puzzle pieces together and tape together or hang on the wall.

Review: What do you think about how God made people? What is something new you appreciate about how God made you or someone else in the group?

#### 5 Minutes Share & Pray:

Remind the children that God uniquely designed them in the unique ways they described in the worksheet for a special purpose in His plan. Ask children if they have anything about their unique design that they want to thank God for. Ask if there are any things they have a hard time accepting to ask God's help with. Pray for the requests or invite a child to pray for the class.

-1 puzzle piece

- r puzzie piece -Tape

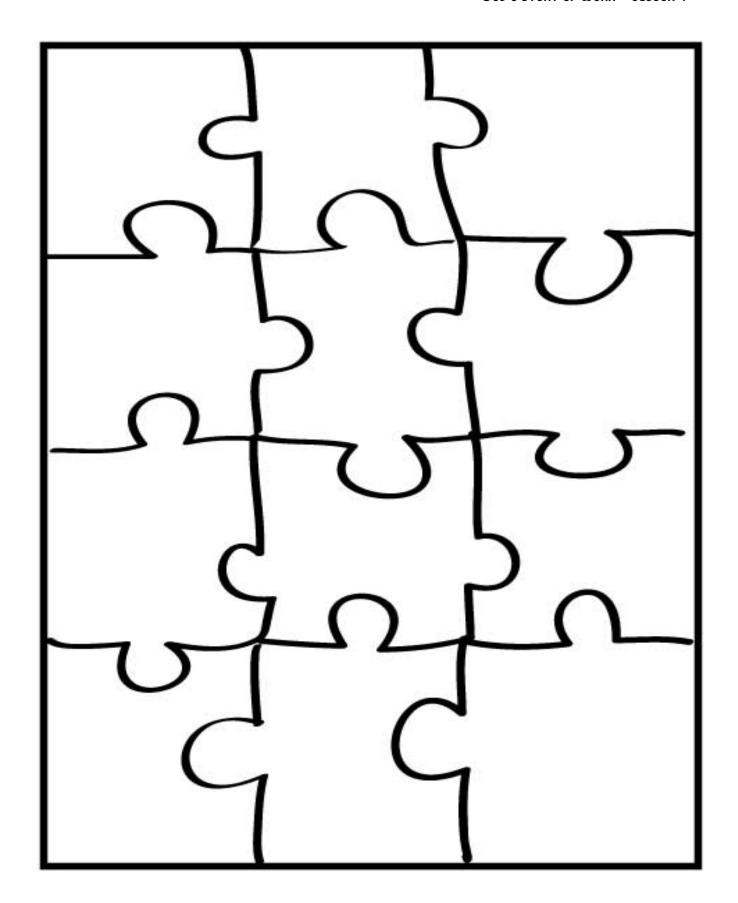
## The Me God Designed

By:					
·	(Name)				
My favorite Activities or Hobb	ine:				
Drawing	Playing music	Soccer			
Hanging out w/ friends		Math			
Helping others	Baking	Cooking			
Collecting		Dance			
Coloring	Painting	Knitting			
Hiking	Fishing	Jewelry making			
Martial Arts	Ice-skating	Basketball			
Tennis	Bowling	Watching movies			
Listening to music	Making crafts				
Reading	Swimming	Skateboarding			
Scrapbooking	Writing	Snowboarding/Skiing			
Other:					
Other:					
Other:					
I like to do these activities □	l With people □ F	Rv myself			
I would rather:					
☐ Go to the	e mountains	☐ Go to the beach			
☐ Go to a p	•	☐ Go to the library			
	music instrument	☐ Learn to draw			
☐ Go to the	•	☐ Stay inside			
□ Watch a		☐ Play sports			
☐ Go on ar	•	☐ Ride a boat			
☐ Have a p ☐ Eat cake	<ul><li>☐ Have a pet cat</li><li>☐ Eat veggies</li></ul>				
☐ Lat cake		☐ Live in cold weather			
	ot weather	Live in cold weather			
What do you like the most about how you look?					
What do you usually spend time thinking about?					
	5				

What is your family like?	
When I grow up, I think I want to be a:	
The person I most admire is	because:

## The words that best describe me are (circle all the words that best describe you):

Determined	Focused	Confident	Encouraging	
Loving	Intellectual	Fair	Clever	
Daring	Calm	Supportive	Talkative	
Quiet	Persistent	Respectful	Inspiring	
Funny	Caring	Kind	Thoughtful	
Easy-going	Quirky	Optimistic	Worried	
Courageous	Sensitive	Messy	Neat	
Strong	Organized	Hard-working	Tough	
Serious	Joyful	Artistic	Creative	
Talented	Understanding	Honest	Curious	
Cheerful	Thankful	Beautiful	Cute	
Wise	Gentle	Patient	Forgiving	
Free spirited	Quick	Fashionable	Inventive	
Positive	Affectionate	Athletic	Imaginative	
Polite	Decisive	Reliable	Detailed	



# Lesson 4 "Masterpieces are Not for the Sidelines" Parents' Sheet

This Week's Focus: God Has Designed Each Person Uniquely

This week we learned that just as the eye and nose each have a unique design and function, we each have unique and important parts to play in the body. God has designed each person uniquely. When we try to be someone else, we miss out on the joy of fully seeing our unique design being used in God's plan. When we know God and live out who we each are for Him, we find the greatest joy and purpose. Sometimes it's hard to see ourselves. When we hear feedback from others it can be very helpful and life-giving to hear what we contribute.

#### Do This Week's Workout: Family Inventory

The Weekly Workout is a great way you can "work" out the week's focus with your child – in action. Invite the whole family into this time! God IS at work.

Give each person a blank sheet of paper for each member of the family – write the family member's name on top. Spend time together, quietly writing down the unique gifts, personality traits and abilities you see in each person. Be as specific as possible. If it's easier, and you have a large family, you can spend 15-20 minutes each day talking about one member of the family. Then go around and share.

Here are some questions to help think through what you see about each person:

- What do you think this person is good at? (think about talents, but also natural abilities like – creativity, problem solving, fixing things, listening to others, learning, etc.)
- What do you enjoy about his/her personality?
- What does this person add to the family dynamic? (i.e. silliness or not being so serious, laughter, preparation, safety, etc.)

#### Talk about it:

Go around the family circle and share:

- 1) What are you surprised to hear from your family?
- 2) Did hearing this feedback change anything for you? Are you encouraged? Do you have a deeper appreciation of your uniqueness?

Consider having a party to CELEBRATE how God designed your family!

Save your family inventory – you can clip to the fridge, tuck into a "Family Inventory" folder, frame them, etc.



Lesson 4: Masterpieces are Not for the Sidelines

# No two fingerprints are alike!



# Ephesians 2:10

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

# 1 Corinthians 12:12, 15-20







<sup>12</sup> Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ... <sup>15</sup> Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?<sup>18</sup> But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body.



# Lesson 5 "For Such a Time as This" Large Group Lesson

-Lesson 5 Slides

MAIN IDEA: God designed WHEN and WHERE we live.

### **OPENING**

#### Leader

Raise your hand if any of these things seem strange: [Slide 2]

- You see cars on the highway
- If you need to buy clothes, you open your computer and order things to be sent right to your door
- You can talk with a friend via a video chat
- You travel to another city in the United States, miles from you, all within one day
- When it's dark, you brighten your room with just a flip of a switch
- You don't know the meaning of a word, so you look it up on the internet.

These things don't seem strange because it's how we live at this moment in time. Raise your hand if any of these following facts seem strange: Slide 3

- If you are a girl or woman, you only wear dresses and boys and men, you wear breeches and boots
- Your home is most likely made out of wood and very small
- There are no video games or computers, and you usually play outside – playing hopscotch or marbles or making kites to fly
- There is no grocery store so you and your family make soap, clothing and butter at home
- Boys and men you go hunting to find meat to eat
- It takes five weeks to travel from New York on the East Coast to Louisiana in the South (– a trip that takes three and a half hours today by plane.

These seem strange to us today but they were all normal to anyone born in the 1600s in the United States. They would have been shocked to know that today you can travel from New York to Louisiana in just three and a half hours by taking a plane – something that flies in the sky.

Not only did God design how you look, your unique talents and abilities, and your personality – he designed the time and place of where you were born as well.

-Slide 2

There's a reason you were born today at a time when there's technology and a different way to find information, travel, etc.

We're going to take a look at two lives today that were born in a unique time and place by God's design. The first is an orphan girl who had neither mother nor father. The other is a man who has special talents for working in metal, with wood and stones.

Scripture Lesson: Invite a child to stand and read for the group.

Leader The Bible tells us about a young Jewish girl who keep the standard standard in the standard standard

The Bible tells us about a young Jewish girl who lost her mother and father at an early age. [Slide 4] She was thankfully taken in and cared for by her cousin (Mordecai) who raised her as if she was his own daughter. This girl's name was Esther and she was beautiful. She happened to be alive at a time when the King of Persia and Media was looking for a new wife. Esther also happened to live in the citadel of Susa, the place where King Xerxes' throne was. A search was made for the most beautiful women in Susa to be brought to the palace so that the king could find a new wife. Out of all the women, Esther was selected. King Xerxes had a noble named Haman that he specially honored. Though commanded by the King to kneel and honor Haman, Mordecai refused to kneel before anyone but God. This angered Haman and wanting revenge, he decided to go beyond targeting just Mordecai to destroy all Jewish people. The only person that could possibly stop Haman was Esther. As the gueen, she could ask the king for help. Let's take a look at Esther 4:12-17. [Slide 5]

<sup>12</sup> When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, <sup>13</sup> he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. <sup>14</sup> For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

<sup>15</sup> Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup> "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

-Slide 4

<sup>17</sup>So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions.

Because Esther was born at this time and place and was faithful with the talents, abilities and opportunities given to her, she was able to step in and help rescue the Jews from being completed destroyed! At the end of the three days, although it could cost her life to appear before the king without being summoned, Esther went to speak to the king. The king pardoned her appearing and Esther invited the king and Haman to dinner. At the dinner, she told the king of Haman's plan to destroy all the Jews. The king was furious with Haman and gave Esther power to do whatever could be done to protect the Jews.

Another person in the Bible was selected by God for a special project in history. We will hear about him again in another lesson as well. He was gifted with wisdom, understanding and knowledge and abilities with all kinds of crafts. His name was Bezalel and it's no accident that he happened to be born when the Israelites were entering a new season of their relationship with God. They were given special, detailed instructions to build a tabernacle as a meeting place with God and it required a master craftsman to execute the design. There were no factories or machines to make things. It took a person who was trained and gifted in such work to make the gold furnishings and special fabrics needed. Bezalel was just such a person! Let's look at Exodus 31:1-6: Slide 6

Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, <sup>3</sup> and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills — <sup>4</sup> to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, <sup>5</sup> to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. <sup>6</sup> Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, to help him.

#### Exodus 38:22 tells us:

Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made everything the LORD commanded Moses;

It's no accident that Bezalel was born and gifted with exactly the talents needed at that particular place and time.

It's no accident that YOU are born with the talents, abilities and opportunities given to you at this particular time in history. Just like Esther and Bezalel, you may face a time where work is hard and challenging. Because God cares very much about your work, know that you can always ask Him for ideas and strength for easy or hard tasks.

God is a master artist and He creatively works with time and people for His Restoration Project. In small group today, you will take time to think through the unique time and place God has put YOU!

### **Large Group Closing Prayer**

Leader

God, You made each of us so uniquely and beautifully. Not only that, you have also specifically crafted the time in history and place You put us. Help us to see and appreciate the unique experiences, resources and opportunities You have given us. Nothing is by accident because we know that You are Lord of all. Help us to see, appreciate and be good stewards of what You have given. In Jesus' name, amen.

# Lesson 5 "For Such a Time as This" Small Group Time - Activity Guide

#### -Time Travel cards

### 10 Minutes Opening Activity: Time Travel

Place a stack of the travel cards in the middle of the group upside down so that the words are not seen. Have a student turn over the top card. They will describe what they think it took to do the listed activity a hundred years ago versus today. Take turns going around the group.

Review: How we live and how things are done today is quite different from a hundred years ago. God created you to be alive today in this particular time rather than a hundred years ago!

### -1 blank sheet of paper per child -A copy of the Life

- Mapping Guidelines
- -Pens/Pencils
- -Colored Pencils/Markers

### 20 Minutes Worksheet: Life Mapping

Have students map out their own time in history. Give each child a copy of the Life Mapping Guidelines, a blank sheet of 11x17 paper, a pen/pencil, colored pencils or markers to work with. When completed, have each student share 1 or 2 things from their map that they are grateful God has given them.

Review: Ask – what is something you are able to do for God in each of your unique settings because you are alive today?

### 5 Minutes Share & Pray:

Remind the children that God uniquely designed the unique time they were born in. Ask children if they have anything about the time period they were born in that they want to thank God for. Ask children if there are any personal prayer requests they have. Going around the group in popcorn prayer style – with each child thanking God for what he/she wants to name and then having one student close in prayer for the requests shared.

### **Time Travel Cards**

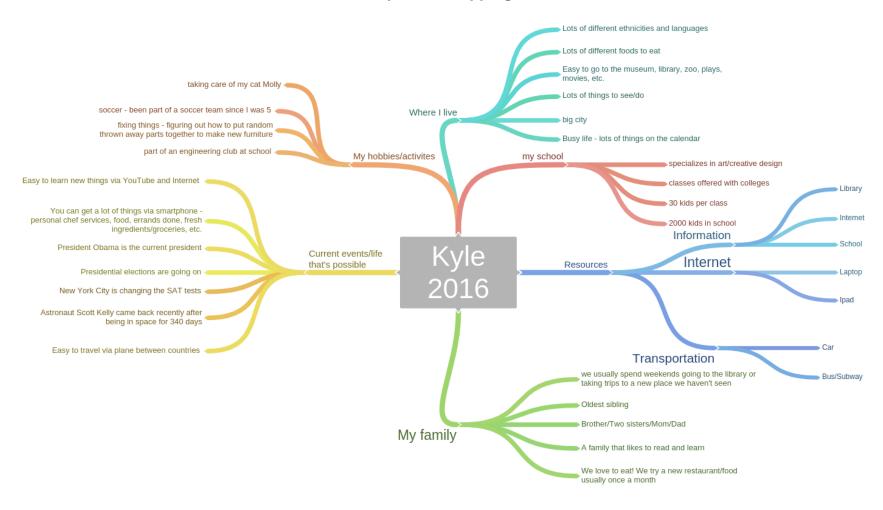
Sending a friend a letter	Taking a trip abroad	Writing a paper	
Buying clothes	Talking to a friend	Making a cake	
Learning to play a sport	Listening to music	Hanging out with friends	
Making a sandwich	Reading the Bible	Borrowing books	
Going to the beach	Fishing	Brushing your teeth	
Going to the bathroom	Eating steak	Finding out the weather	
Watching a Mapping movie directions		Recording information	

### **Life Mapping Guidelines**

Get creative! You can use a circle/square/star, etc. See the sample map of Kyle's life.

- 1. Draw a circle in the middle of the paper. Write your **name** and **the year** in it.
- 2. Draw a line from the center circle for each of the following areas. At the end of the line, draw a circle and write these titles within.
  - a. Neighborhood/City you live in
  - b. Resources I have
  - c. My School
  - d. Activities I'm Part of (outside of school)
  - e. Current Events things that are happening in the world today
  - f. People/Places I interact with (not already listed)
  - g. \_\_\_\_\_ (add your own categories)
- 3. From each of these circles draw out new lines and fill in details about each category. You can jot words like the sample or picture icons that help you remember the information you want to capture.

### **Sample Life Mapping**



# Lesson 5 "For Such a Time as This" Parent Sheet

This Week's Focus: God designed WHEN and WHERE we live

This week we learned that not only did God design who we are, He also placed us in a particular time in history. There are no accidents with God. The purpose He has for our lives coincides with the needs and work that needs to be done in the particular time period we live in. A biblical example is Esther – an orphan girl raised like a daughter by her cousin Mordecai in the citadel of Susa – the very place King Xerxes looked for a new wife. By being the Queen, she was able to request protection and help for the Jews when they faced annihilation.

#### Do This Week's Workout: Family Inventory

The Weekly Workout is a great way you can "work" out the week's focus with your child – in action. Invite the whole family into this time! God IS at work.

#### Supplies Needed:

- a large sheet of paper (large enough to allow the family to easily gather around and draw/write on it together
- Markers/colored pencils/pens/pencils

Place a large blank sheet of paper in the middle of the table or floor (either a piece of butcher paper or taping together 8 sheets of legal paper could work).

Draw a circle in the center of the paper with your family name written inside.

Draw lines out from this center circle for each of the areas listed below to map the places your family touches in a typical week individually or as a family:

- Places you go (i.e. park, grocery store)
- Neighborhood/city you live in

For each of the areas you list,

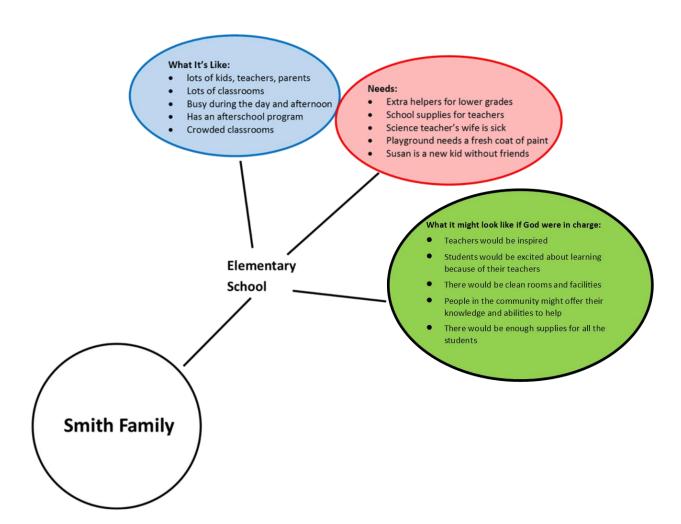
- 1. draw a connecting line to a **blue** circle and describe what it's like
- 2. draw a connecting line to a red circle and describe needs you see
- draw a connecting line to a green circle and describe what it might look like if God was in charge

(See sample below.)

#### Talk about it:

Go around the family circle and discuss:

- a) What areas of need do you care about the most?
- b) Knowing the skills, resources and personality of your family, what is one way as a family, you will work this week to bring Kingdom presence to one of the areas in need?





Lesson 5: For Such a Time as This

# Is This Strange? - Part I

- You see cars on the highway
- If you need to buy clothes, you open your computer and order things to be sent right to your door
- You can talk with a friend via a video chat
- You travel to another city in the United States, miles from you, all within one day
- When it's dark, you brighten your room with just a flip of a switch
- > You don't know the meaning of a word, so you look it up on the internet.

# Is This Strange? - Part II

- If you are a girl or woman, you only wear dresses and boys and men, you wear breeches and boots
- Your home is most likely made out of wood and very small
- There are no video games or computers, and you usually play outside playing hopscotch or marbles or making kites to fly
- There is no grocery store so you and your family make soap, clothing and butter at home
- Boys and men you go hunting to find meat to eat
- It takes five weeks to travel from New York on the East Coast to Louisiana in the South (- a trip that takes three and a half hours today by plane.



# Esther 4:12-17

"12 When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, 13 he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

<sup>15</sup> Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup> "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." <sup>17</sup> So Mordecai went away and carried out all of Esther's instructions."

# Exodus 31:1-6

"Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, <sup>3</sup> and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— <sup>4</sup> to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, <sup>5</sup> to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. <sup>6</sup> Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, to help him."

# **Exodus 38:22**

Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, made everything the LORD commanded Moses;

# Lesson 6 "I've Got Work to Do!" Large Group Lesson

-Lesson 6 slides

MAIN IDEA: God has work for ME to do.

#### **OPENING**

-4 people to help act out listed roles-props for each role

A - 1	Na a da da
Actors	Needed:

- ☐ Person A: A construction worker building a house
- ☐ Person B: A business person on a laptop answering emails
- ☐ Person C: A student practicing drills for soccer
- ☐ Person D: A mom trimming plants

One after another, each actor acts out their role as the teacher explains what they are doing. It can make things more fun to have the actors exaggerate their role—For example, huffing and puffing and pretending to lift heavy bricks (shoeboxes wrapped like bricks).

#### Leader

Which of the following is an example of work? Let's take a look:

Person A is a construction worker. He/She (depending on the actor) spends his day helping to build a new office building on Main St. It takes a lot of strength to do this job right.

Person B is a business executive at an advertising firm. In designing a new advertising campaign, she needs to answer many different emails between co-workers and the firm they are designing the campaign for.

Person C is a student at Easton Elementary School and on a local soccer team. He/she is trying to become a better player by practicing some drills.

Person D is a mom who has 3 kids who are at school right now. She loves to garden and has many different plants that she takes great care of. She grows her own tomatoes and cucumbers!

Which of these are showing an example of work? (Invite children to respond.) Yes! You're right. All of these are different kinds of work.

#### Leader

The definition of work is "effort put in to produce or accomplish something." Slide 2

In the Bible, the word "WORK" shows up 555 times! That shows how important work is and how much it matters to God. Work is a big part of all of our lives. We see the word "WORK" right from the very beginning of the Bible and before humans even exist, God is working. In Genesis 2:2 it says: "By the seventh day God had finished the WORK he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his WORK."

There are many kinds of work. Take a look at this list. Slide 3 What other kinds of work can you think of? (Invite children to respond.)

Painting	Dancing	Answering Emails		
Fixing the toilet	Cleaning	Running		
Laundry	Making your bed	Studying		
Helping people with taxes	Helping someone find a book	Giving out medicine		
Surgery	Designing clothes	Giving manicures		
Researching new ways to fight cancer	Helping the homeless find jobs	Dry cleaning		
Selling cars	Driving buses	Packaging food		

Work can be fun and work can be hard. Which of these seem fun to you? Which are hard? (Invite children to respond.)

Slide 4 Adults average about 40 hours per week at their jobs, but a paid job is not the only thing that counts as work. Adults work much more than 40 hours a week – they also spend time doing laundry, taking care of the lawn, cooking, taking care of children. And it's not just adults that work - kids work too! Most kids work hard and go to school every day for about seven hours a day. The average kid in America will spend 943 hours in school in a year. After school there's extracurricular

-Slide 3

activities or lessons as well as chores to do at home and homework to do. If you really think about it our lives are full of WORK! What are examples of work that kids do? (Invite children to respond.)

Does anyone remember the definition of work? (Invite responses.) Very good! Work is effort put in to produce or accomplish something. Work can be fun and it can be hard. Even fun work can be hard. But it takes work to make a difference.

Scripture Lesson: Ask a child to stand and read for the group.

Leader The very beginning of the Bible shows us God working.

God also had roles and work for the very first humans as well! Let's take a look at Genesis 1:26-30: Slide 5

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup>So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.
<sup>28</sup>God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

<sup>29</sup> Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

Work is an important part of how God made us. Although because of sin, work can be hard sometimes, it is also incredible that God would give us a part to play in His big plan. By giving us the ability to work, we get to make a difference in the world and help restore it with God's help, to what God originally designed.

It's not just adults that work. Everyone, including you, has work to do! Sitting in class and learning, helping take care of your sibling, cleaning up the dinner table, making a card, practicing and playing with your soccer team, making your bed, baking cupcakes, playing piano, writing a song – all of these things are work.

The work you do is an ability given to you by God. Imagine what might happen if you couldn't do all the many kinds of work you do! You might need to sleep in a messy room, you wouldn't know anything if you don't make an effort to learn, and without all the work you do to learn academics and sports or other skills – as you got older, you wouldn't be able to do many things.

### **Large Group Closing Prayer**

Leader

God, thank you for not designing us as robots. Instead, You took the time to design each of us in unique ways, put us in this particular family and time in history and have given us the ability to work and make a difference. Help us to see work as YOU designed it. In Jesus' name, amen!

# Lesson 6 "I've Got Work to Do!" Small Group Time - Activity Guide

-Three index cards/pieces of paper per student -Pencils

### 5 Minutes Opening Activity: Work Charades

Have each student write down an example of work on each paper. Put the papers in a pile in the middle upside down. Divide children in pairs. Have each pair draw a paper from the pile and act out the work listed. The other children will guess what kind of work it is.

Remind students that instead of being robots, God gave us the ability to do so many different kinds of work.

### 20 Minutes Worksheet: My Work Inventory

Work Inventory worksheets Have students fill out how they spend their time each day on the worksheet. Have them put a ★ next to work they enjoy and a ▲ next to work they find hard or not fun. Take some time to share – ask children to share one kind of work they enjoy and one kind of work they find difficult.

Remind students that the work each of them do is unique and given by God – both the work that is ordinary and sometimes hard, but also the work that is special and fun.

### 5 Minutes Work in the Garden Word Search

Have students open a Bible to Genesis 2:4-9. Tape up the large paper to the wall on one side of the room. Students will line up on the other side. Set a clock for five minutes. Each student will run, one at a time, with a marker, to circle a work-related word that can be found in Genesis 2:4-9. As one student finishes, they will pass the marker to the next student.

### 5 Minutes Share & Pray

Ask if any students have any prayer requests to share. Pray for these requests and for God's presence to fill the work that each student and member of the church will be participating in this week in many different places.

- A large paper with the words "made, formed, breathed, planted, put, created, sent" scattered throughout. Around these words, write other random words to create a kind of word search -Bible
- -віріе -Marker

	_'s	<b>Work Inventory</b>
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Fill in the schedule below with the work you do. Example: School (Monday-Friday, 8-3PM), Babysitting (Friday, 5-7PM)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6AM							
7AM							
8AM							
9AM							
10AM							
11AM							
12PM							
1PM							
2PM							
3PM							
4PM							
5PM							
6PM							
7PM							
8PM							
9PM							
10PM							
11PM							

# Lesson 6 "I've Got Work to Do!" Parent Sheet

This Week's Main Idea: God has work for me to do.

This week we learned that work is a big part of all of our days – whether we are kids or adults. The definition of work is "effort put in to produce or accomplish something." In the Bible, the word "WORK" shows up 555 times! This shows how important work is, how much it matters to God, and that it is a central part of our existence. Work is a big part of all of our lives, an important part of the life God designed for each of us and goes beyond just referring to paid work. Only when we see how much of our lives involves work, can we see the impact that approaching all of our work "with" and "for" God can have.

#### Do This Week's Workout: Family Inventory

The Weekly Workout is a great way you can "Work" out the week's focus with your child – in action. Invite the whole family into this time! God IS at work.

**Ask each other:** What kind of work do you do? Which work do you enjoy the most?

Put every family member's name into a hat and take turns pulling a name out. Pick a work task that this person normally does and do it for them this week instead. Pick a time to meet again as a family to talk about the experience. For example – a child might fold the laundry, Dad might take over a babysitting time, etc.

-or-

Choose work from one family member's schedule that is something you can work on together. For example, you might:

- o Put together a meal or care package for someone (i.e. a new mother, single mom, senior citizen, homeless person, college student)
- o Take on a home project fixing something together that needs to be done (cleaning a closet, organizing a space)
- o Clean a park or neighborhood area together
- o Create a grocery list and go grocery shopping together
- o Do a chore together (laundry, washing dishes, etc.)

#### Talk about it:

- What was fun? What was hard?
- What did you learn by doing someone else's work?
- How was it to work on this together versus just being one person's work?
- What was the good that happened as a result of the hard work?



Lesson 6: I've Got Work to Do

### **Definition:**

work

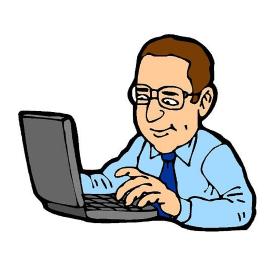
Verb

effort put in to produce or accomplish something.

### What other kinds of work can you think of?

Painting	Dancing	Answering Emails
Fixing the toilet	Cleaning	Running
Laundry	Making your bed	Studying
Helping people with taxes	Helping someone find a book	Giving out medicine
Surgery	Designing clothes	Giving manicures
Researching new ways to fight cancer	Helping the homeless find jobs	Dry cleaning
Selling cars	Driving buses	Packaging food

# 40 hours/week + other work







### Genesis 1:26-30

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

<sup>29</sup> Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup> And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so."

# Lesson 7 "3 Ingredients for Working with God" Large Group Lesson

-Lesson 7 slides

MAIN IDEA:

Working WITH and FOR God means doing work with

faith, hope and love.

OPENING Leader

Every human being on this planet – currently 7.4 billion people – works every day. From small tasks like opening the mail to cleaning the house or studying or running a business or working at a company, many of the 24 hours of each day, 7.4 billion people are in motion working. To understand how big the number 7.4 billion is – if compared to time, if one person is compared to one day, [Slide 2] how many years do you think the number 7.4 billion would be equal to? (Invite children to guess.) The answer is 20,273,973 years! [Slide 3]

Everyone works. Some of our work are things we volunteer to do to help out, that no one might see or thank us for. Some work we get paid for. Other work includes daily tasks that we do as a routine every day – making our bed, helping to take care of our siblings, clearing dinner dishes, etc.

Everyone works. Imagine the impact of 7.4 billion people all working for and with God! Unfortunately, not everyone in the world knows Jesus. What difference does it make to be a follower of Jesus and work? How is your work different from someone who doesn't know Jesus yet?

Often Christians try to work for God. But God desires relationship with us. He wants us to work with Him. What's the difference between working "for" someone versus working "with" someone? (Invite children to respond.)

I need one volunteer to help me (Invite one child up and ask them to carry the bag/box.) When (child's name) is working for me, it means they are doing things on their own. But when (child's name) is working with me, (Carry bag/box together.) we are working together. God wants us to work with Him. Yes, it might be surprising but God does want to be part of our everyday life and work.

-Slide 2 -Slide 3

-heavy garbage bag or box

Following Jesus means inviting Him into every part of our life including our work – from easy tasks like sharpening a pencil to harder things like writing a book report.

There are three special ingredients that will help us learn how to work WITH God. When we work with these three ingredients, they will make a world of difference in the impact of our work. Can you guess what these ingredients might be? (Invite children's responses.)

The three ingredients are: FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE. [Slide 4] Without knowing Jesus, these are impossible to fully add to our work. Being a follower of Jesus, means that we partner with God instead of working on our own. We have decided to make Him the reason for why we do things as well as our partner in every task.

Take a look at this throne. There are two reasons why people do things. Either I make it about me - we want to be seen or have our way, meaning we put ourselves on the throne of our heart, (Put "ME" sign on the seat of the throne.) or we want Jesus to be seen or let Him have His way, meaning we put Jesus on the throne of our heart. (Put "JESUS" sign on the seat of the throne.)

[Slide 5] With Faith – When you work with faith, you invite God into your work believing that He wants to be a part of what you're doing, and believing that His presence in your work makes a difference. God waits to be invited by us.

[Slide 6] With Hope – When you work with hope, you know that God is in your work, and that He can do surprising things with your work. You view your work like a small seed – with God's presence, He can use your work given to Him to touch more people than you might expect, or make other things happen than you might expect. Adding hope also means you don't limit how you see people and situations you are working with – you leave room for God.

[Slide 7] With Love – When you work with love, you do the task, even simple things like washing the dishes, with your heart. By doing this, you work to serve others

-Slide 4 or alternative – create 3 signs drawn like condiment jars, labeling them "FAITH", "HOPE" and "LOVE"

-chair decorated like a throne -sign that says "JESUS" -sign that says "ME"

-Slide 5

-Slide 6

as God would - bringing his attitude, work ethic, care into what you do.

When you add Faith, Hope and Love to your work you're not just working for God. You are working WITH God - being partners in work.

Scripture Lesson: Ask a child to stand and read for the group. Leader What does it look like to work with faith, hope and love?

Let's take a look at two people in the Bible we can learn from. The first is Paul. Philippians 3:4-6 tells us about

his background: [Slide 8]

"If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless."

Paul was someone who was extremely smart. He had studied with Gamaliel, a well-respected and known teacher of God's law. As a Pharisee, Paul would have memorized, known and followed the 613 laws for how to follow God. He was someone who was 100% about following God. When he believed that Jesus was not God's Son, he used his energy and time to go after the early Christians, dragging them to court to face death. He was determined that God would be honored. Acts 22 tells us that on his way to persecute Christians in Damascus, Paul had a supernatural encounter with Jesus. A bright light from heaven shone around him, and Paul fell to the ground. He heard a voice say "Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?" Paul asked who the voice was and heard "I am Jesus of Nazareth, who you are persecuting." From then on, Paul's life changed. He spent his whole life working to let Jesus be known.

When Paul worked with God, the added faith, hope and love to his work, his intellectual ability, writing ability, and his determined personality reached people who had never heard of Jesus. He could have built a reputation for himself among Jews as a respected teacher of the

law teaching students. Instead, he partnered with God by adding love to his work, by sewing tents to make a living to support himself, facing many difficulties, so that he could travel to non-Jewish nations to teach people about Jesus. His letters fill 13 of the New Testament books and the fact that God inspired and partnered in this is evident in that these writings touch Christians all over the world today.

Acts 16 tells us of another person: a woman named Lydia. She was someone who had business skills, being a dealer in selling purple cloth. After listening to Paul preach, she came to believe in Jesus. Through her, she and her whole household were baptized. We can see faith, hope and love in action in her life as instead of keeping her faith to herself, she partnered with God by opening her home for Paul and his team to have a place to stay. Shortly after, Paul and Silas were put in prison. When they were released, we read in Acts 16:40: Slide 9

"40 After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left."

Lydia's home became more than just a place for her and her family to rest. It became a place of encouragement, rest for others and a place where strangers could come and hear about Jesus.

7.4 billion people on our planet are working. Some are working to build their kingdom. Others are working to build God's Kingdom. Some are working for God but not with God. Others are working for and with God. What do you want for your life? If we ask Him to teach us, God can show us how to partner with Him by doing our work with faith, hope and love.

#### **Large Group Closing Prayer**

Leader

Thank you, God, for giving us a way to know You, live life for You and with You through Your Son Jesus. We know that You want us to know You in personal ways. Thank you for calling us to partner with You in Your work. Would You teach us how to do our work with faith,

#### GOD'S STORY OF WORK - LESSON 7

hope and love? We want our work to be filled with Your presence. In Jesus' name we pray, amen!

# Lesson 7 "3 Ingredients for Working with God" Small Group Time - Activity Guide

#### 5 Minutes Game: Red Light, Green Light, Faith-Hope-Love!

Teach students 3 moves for the game.

- Faith forearms crossed in a cross shape.
- Hope hands folded in prayer
- Love arms crossed across the heart, hugging oneself

How to play "Red Light, Green Light" -

- 1. Start with everyone along the starting line.
- Stand at the finish line, turn around, and say "Red light, Green light, 123!" – as you do, everyone will move towards the finish line to tag the leader.
- 3. As you finish the phrase saying "1,2,3!" everyone must immediately stop.
  Instead of calling out "1,2,3" at the end call out "1,2, Faith!" or "1,2, Hope!" or "1,2, Love!" Depending on the word that is called, students have to freeze in the position called. You can walk around and see if they'll wiggle which usually gets the children giggling. Any players that move return to the starting line.
- 4. Start a new round after the leader is tagged. The first person to tag the leader can be the new leader.

Remind students that because we know Jesus, we now work for and with Him. This means doing work with 3 things: faith, hope and love.

#### 25 Minutes Applying Faith-Hope-Love: Blessing Cards

Explain to students that you are going to make cards to bless people with – reminders that God sees and loves them. Explain that you are going to pray together as a class to invite God into inspiring the decorations, in showing us who to give these cards to, and leaving them in the right places to reach people who need encouragement. Pray for the cards and ask God for His love. Ask students to take a moment to ask God who they should make the cards for. Provide a moment of silence for this. A random person may come to mind – encourage them to ask God whether this is from Him.

Make the cards. Have students fold construction paper in half; then tear in half to make 2 cards. Cut out a "God Sees You" heart, sign it and paste to one side of the paper. On the front, students can decorate with the name of the person they want to bless – or- if it's a surprise, the title "I prayed for you today".

Leave the cards. Children can either give to someone they have designated or leave them in places that come to mind (i.e. church fellowship hall, bathroom)

-construction paper -scissors (1 per child) -gluesticks -markers/crayons -Faith-Hope-Love sheet (1 per child) -Other decorative elements like stickers, if you have Explain that how this activity was done was a way of inviting God into all of it. By pausing, we first invited God into the process. We asked for His ideas and wisdom in who to serve with this project. We invited Him into our creativity and made these with love. We have hope and faith that by inviting God into this, we might be used by God to encourage someone who needed this message. We can do the same things with other work that we do during the week.

#### 5 Minutes Share & Pray

Ask if any students have any prayer requests to share. Ask which area is the hardest – doing work with faith, hope or love? Pray for these areas.

#### "God Sees You" Hearts



A little reminder to let you know:
God sees you.
He knows you by name.
He enjoys being with you!

God bless you! With love,



A little reminder to let you know: God sees you.

He knows you by name.
He enjoys being with you!
God bless you!
With love,

# Lesson 7 "3 Ingredients for Working with God" Parent Sheet

#### This Week's Main Idea:

Working WITH and FOR God means doing work with Faith, Hope and Love.

This week we learned that God seeks relationship with us. Rather than us working for Him, He desires that we work *with* Him. Three things that can help us approach work with God are doing work with faith, hope and love. In faith, we invite God into our work believing God desires to be present and active in all work – no matter how ordinary or small. In hope, we believe God can do more with the work we do, those we work with and the situations we are in, beyond our efforts. God can do more than we imagine. As we work with love, we partner with God in being His presence in that work. Work with love leaves quite a different taste than work done as rote or without love.

#### Do This Week's Workout: Family Inventory

The Weekly Workout is a great way you can "work" out the week's focus with your child – in action. Invite the whole family into this time! God IS at work.

Have each family member look at the work they do. What is one task or area, that has been particularly hard – that has been difficult to see God in? It could be something ordinary you do like a chore, or a challenging situation with people. Agree as a family to approach that task/area this week with the following:

- 1) Before starting the task, pray and invite God into it
- 2) If there are difficult people or situations involved, remind yourself of the truth of what God can do in this situation (it helps to speak this out loud!) i.e. God, you see and delight in my co-worker. You desire more than anyone to see a healthy workplace. Nothing is impossible to You. Work I do for God counts for eternity.
- 3) Work with love work as if doing this for Jesus.
- 4) Reflect immediately after the work pause for a couple of minutes. How did it go? Where did you see God? What struggles came up for you and why? Confess to God if there is any sin to share and ask His help. Joy, freedom and deeper partnership with God comes from being honest with our struggles, seeing what causes them and bringing them to God who can work in these areas as we invite Him.

#### Talk about it:

How did the week go? Has anything changed? If so, what are the changes? If not, what do you think is the reason for this?



Lesson 7: 3 Ingredients for Working with God

If we count 1 person as 1 day

7.4 billion days = years

# If we count 1 person as 1 day

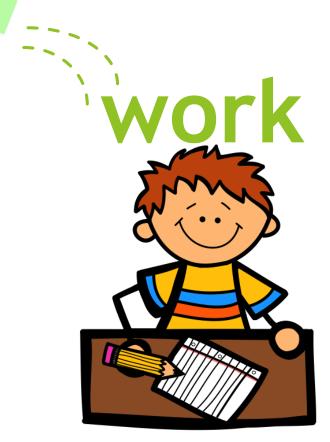
7.4 billion days = 20,273,973 years!

HOPE FAITH

LOVE



- Invite God into your work
- believe He wants to be a part of what you're doing
- believing that His presence in your work makes a difference.

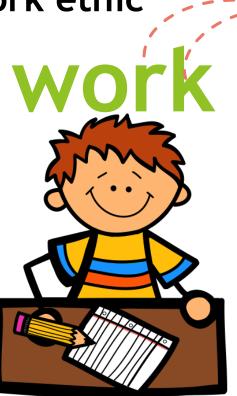


- Know that God is in your work
- God can grow your work to touch more people than you might expect or make other things happen than you might expect.
- You don't limit how you see people and situations you are working with - you leave room for God



 You do each task, even simple things, with your heart.

- You work with God's attitude, God's work ethic and care





### Philippians 3:4-6

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

### Acts 16:40

<sup>40</sup> After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.

# Lesson 8 "Work That Matters" Large Group Lesson

-Lesson 8 slides

MAIN IDEA:

Work that matters requires living as a STEWARD/MANAGER, not the BOSS.

#### OPENING Leader

-newspaper

How many of you would like your life to be one that makes a difference in the world? Where you know that because YOU lived, something changed for the better. Raise your hand. (Invite students to raise their hands if they agree.) Who are the people in the world that make a difference?

(Hold up newspaper.) All around us, we get updates on what's happening in the world. There's headlines and articles in the newspaper and online. We see important news covered through television reports or the radio. Who do we usually see shown on TV or in the news? (Invite students to respond.)

Yes, usually the media covers the stories of world leaders, the CEOs in charge of large businesses, celebrities, people involved in exciting news or current breaking news that's affecting a lot of people. Are these the people who are making a difference?

Take a moment and look at this slide. Here are five jobs that reach a different number of people. There's the CEO of a company, janitor, retail store manager, a store salesperson, the President of the United States. Rank them in order of importance. Slide 2 (Invite children to give their feedback.)

Who is making the most difference? It depends on who is working as a "steward" rather than a "boss." [Slide 3] A steward is "a person who manages another's property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another or others." These are the people who realize that everything they have – their money, their ability to learn science well, their ability to play basketball well, their family, friends, and all they have, are things God has entrusted to them to take care of and manage. They look at the work they do as managing things on behalf of God.

-Slide 2

The people in the newspaper and the hundreds of people around us every day – the ones who are making a real difference - are the ones who are being good managers of what God has given them. A celebrity might not care about what they own and treat people very poorly. Another celebrity might value the people who are helping him/her and take good care of the things he/she owns. A classmate of yours might not care about his/her siblings or schoolwork. Another classmate might be working hard trying to be responsible and learn things as best as possible, and doing his/her part to help take care of his/her family members.

It doesn't matter whether someone makes the headlines. What matters is whether they are looking to steward, or manage, the people, things, opportunities, and jobs that God has given them – or whether they are looking to use these for their own personal gain. Let's take a look at Jesus to see how he worked.

Scripture Lesson: Ask a child to stand and read for the group. Leader Let's look at John 13:1-5, 12-17: Slide 4

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him."

"12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for

you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Jesus, God's Son, has more power and abilities than anyone else in the world, and even more than the whole world combined. In this story, how did he use his power and abilities? How did he treat his friends? (Invite children to respond.)

Yes, Jesus served his friends and used his power and abilities for their sake. He was the most perfect steward of what God gave Him.

God has given you and me many things to be stewards and managers of: things we own, where we live, where we learn, our families, friends, our abilities, etc. How are you taking care of them?

[Slide 5] Managing something you have well means:

- 1) You treat it or them as belonging to God not to you
- 2) You handle it with love
- 3) You invest time into developing or caring for it

When you manage the people in your life, the things and abilities you have well, you make God shine brightly in this world and become a carrier of God's presence in those things. By doing that you are joining God in His restoration project to heal broken relationships between people and God, others, creation and their own selves – nothing is more important or beautiful than this!

#### **Large Group Closing Prayer**

Leader

God, You gave each of us many things: our families, friends, things we own, abilities and talents, our neighborhoods we live in, opportunities to learn and so much more. You created and put us here to manage these things well. Help us not take these things for granted or use these things for our own self. God, open our eyes to see the incredible responsibility You've given us and help us manage all of these well by Your power so that You and Your will would shine brightly in this world. In Jesus' name, amen!

# Lesson 8 "Work That Matters" Small Group Time - Activity Guide

#### 5 Minutes Word Race

-Post-It notes with the letters of "STEWARDSHIP" written out (1 letter per note) Review the spelling of "stewardship" a couple of times. Leave a scrambled pile of the Post-It notes on one side of the room. Set a timer with two minutes. Have students line up and race across, one at a time, to tape the letters to the other side of the room to spell STEWARDSHIP.

Review the meaning of "STEWARDSHIP" – "a person who manages another's property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another or others." Another word for a "steward" is a "manager."

#### -Management Worksheets -pencils

#### 15 Minutes Management Worksheet

Have students fill out the categories with all the things, people, abilities, etc. God has given them to manage. If children are stuck or unsure what to write, help them think through what they have.

After everyone has filled out their sheets, ask students to share one thing they do a good job managing/taking care of, and one thing they have a hard time managing.

#### -Large sheet of paper -Markers

#### 10 Minutes Group Think

Pick a category that all the children have in common as something God has given them to manage – i.e. doing homework, siblings, etc. Ask them to brainstorm what it would be like to manage this area well and jot on the paper.

Remind the group of the three areas that are involved in being a good steward or managing something well: 1) You treat it or them as belonging to God not to you, 2) You handle it with love, and 3) You invest time into developing or caring for it. Help students go past surface answers by asking open-ended (can't be answered with a "yes" or "no") questions. i.e. What would happen if you did this? What might change?

#### 5 Minutes Share & Pray

Ask if any students have any prayer requests to share. Pray for these areas.

Name:
What I'm in Charge of Managing for God
Fill out the spaces below with the things God has given you in each category.
FAMILY (Name the family members you regularly interact with; immediate and extended family members)
THINGS (Name things that belong to you)
ABILITIES (Name gifts/talents/abilities you have – things you are good at but also that you are growing in)
FRIENDS (Name your friends that you regularly talk to)
PEOPLE (Name people that you interact with regularly that are not listed under Family or Friends)
PLACES (Name places you regularly visit/go to)
OTHER (Fill in whatever other things God has given you, not listed above)

# Lesson 8 "Work That Matters" Parent Sheet

### This Week's Main Idea: Work that matters requires living as a STEWARD/MANAGER, not the BOSS.

Every human being longs to make a difference. This is part of God's design for us. There are true and counterfeit ways to fulfill this longing. The counterfeit way is to use the people, things and abilities in our lives for our self. The life-giving way is to live seeing the people, things and abilities in our lives as gifts and responsibility given by God to steward and manage for Him. A steward is "a person who manages another's property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another or others." We see such a life of stewardship in Jesus. God's Son, washed the feet of his friends, the disciples, rather than seeking to have his feet washed. As we live and work as managers, we help bring God's presence into our broken world.

#### Do This Week's Workout: Stewarding Each Other

The Weekly Workout is a great way you can "work" out the week's focus with your child – in action. Invite the whole family into this time! God IS at work.

To steward/manage something well, means:

- 1) You treat it or them as belonging to God not to you
- 2) You handle it with love
- 3) You invest time into developing or caring for it

Pick an area of your family life that could be better stewarded. It could be taking time to hear what's happening in each other's lives, spending more time together, talking rather than watching TV, serving each other, praying for each other, etc.

Decide on what you will do this week to work on it. This could be a one-time thing such as choosing a weeknight to unplug and talking together or playing a board game together or something for the whole week such as getting together each morning or evening to pray for each other, etc.

#### Talk about it:

How did it feel to make time for each other in this way? What could happen if the family continued to invest time like this?



Lesson 8: Work That Matters

Janitor of a school

- Retail Store Manager
   (a store that has 5,000 customers a month)
- President of the United States



• CEO of an international company (has sites in Europe, Asia and South America)

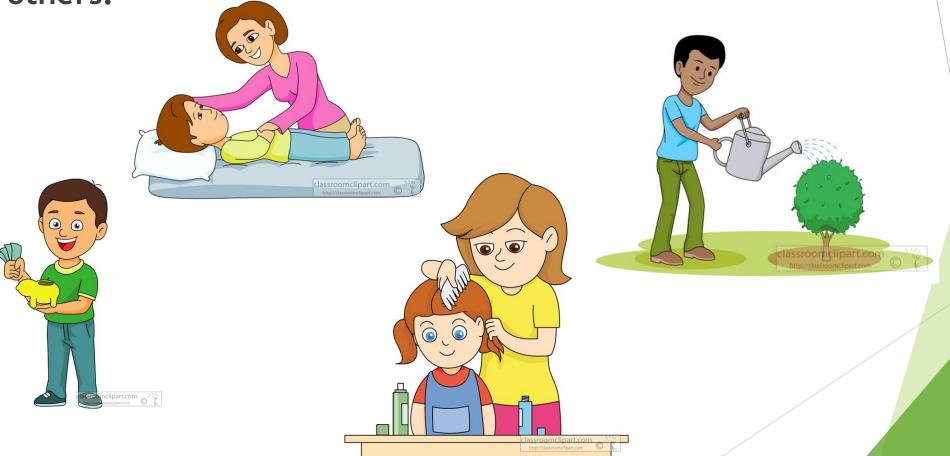
Store salesperson



### **Steward**

a person who manages another's property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another or

others.



### John 13:1-5,12-17



It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

### Managing something you have well means:

- 1. You treat it or them as belonging to God not to you
- 2. You handle it with love
- 3. You invest time into developing or caring for it

# Lesson 9 "God in our Monday to Sunday" Large Group Lesson

-Lesson 9 slides

MAIN IDEA:

God is in our everyday work.

OPENING Leader

-Bible, real dinner plate

Which of these is doing God's work? (Hold up objects.) Washing dishes or teaching the Bible? (Invite children to answer.) A lot of Christians believe that spending time praying or going on a mission trip or reading the Bible is doing God's work - work that will last - and that taking out the garbage, washing dishes, doing laundry, doing homework and everyday things like these is temporary work that is not as holy. 90% of our week or over 150 hours is probably spent doing other things than praying, reading the Bible or going to church. If these are the only things that really matter, then most of our Monday to Sunday is spent doing things that don't count. Thankfully - this is not true!

Doing God's work is not based on the religious character of the work – for example, activities like prayer and Bible reading - but whether they are done in faith, hope and love.

The right belief is to know that God is involved in all things and wants us to give ALL of our life to Him. Slide Colossians 1:16-17 says,

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

#### Deuteronomy 6:5 tells us God's desire is for us to:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

He wants to be a part of every aspect of our lives - our emotions, our decisions, the things we care about, the things we work on – not just the times we pray. God is in 100% of the 168 hours we have each week.

-Slide 3

When we know that God is in all things we know anything can be God's work. Slide 3 A nurse who takes care of patients with faith, hope and love is doing holy work. A construction worker carrying heavy supplies and helping to build a new office who does this work with faith, hope and love is doing work for God. A dancer who practices and performs with faith, hope and love is doing work for God. A student learning and studying with faith, hope and love is doing work for God. Each of these is working as God's co-worker and partner to bring His presence to the areas they work in. A son or daughter loving their parents and siblings is working for God.

God is not only in some kinds of work. God is not only in some spaces like the church building or worship services or prayer times. God is in schools, local businesses, and all around us. God is in all things and constantly at work in the world all around us. Instead of finding God only in some activities, we find Him everywhere! God is in our Monday to Sunday. He's a part of the jobs your parents have and the everyday work you do.

Though the Bible is full of stories of men and women who focused on teaching about God, it also shows stories of people called by God, doing different work.

Scripture Lesson: Ask a child to stand and read for the group. Leader Let's take a look at Exodus 31:1-11 Slide 41

-Slide 4

Then the LORD said to Moses, 2"See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, <sup>3</sup> and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills – 4 to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, 5 to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. 6 Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded you: 7 the tent of meeting, the ark of the covenant law with the atonement cover on it, and all the other furnishings of the tent — 8 the table and its articles, the pure gold lampstand and all its accessories, the altar of incense, 9 the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, the basin with its

stand  $-^{10}$  and also the woven garments, both the sacred garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons when they serve as priests,  $^{11}$  and the anointing oil and fragrant incense for the Holy Place.

God filled Bezalel with the Holy Spirit – not to preach – but to have wisdom and knowledge to work with stones, metal and wood to build a beautiful place to worship God. Bezalel's calling from God was to be an expert craftsman. God has different work callings for each of you. Perhaps some of you are called to become business owners who provide excellent products and work environments that treat people with dignity. Or maybe you're called to become a great dad or mom. Or perhaps you're called to use your math and science skills to engineer better ways to travel. God's work is not only when you become an adult and get a job. The work you are doing RIGHT NOW is work you can partner with God in by doing it with faith, hope and love. God wants to bring schools, learning, and everything you're involved in back to His original design. By participating in these with faith, hope and love, you are God's coworker.

An important thing to remember that God is in all work – whether it is seen by many or no one. What are some of the everyday kinds of work you do that no one really notices? (Invite children to respond.) God is in those things too.

[Slide 5] Brother Lawrence was a monk who lived in the 1600s. He is known for a small book he wrote called *The Practice of the Presence of God.* At a monastery, monks have many different tasks in addition to prayer and Bible study. Each monk also has an assigned task they are responsible for in the care and upkeep of the monastery, such as taking care of the garden, farming, or cooking. Brother Lawrence had the task of washing dishes. He knew that God is in all work and washed the many dirty dishes with faith, hope and lots of love. As he did, he sensed God's presence just as much as he would in times of prayer.

God is in our prayer times and the times we are in a worship service. God is also in the ordinary dish washing, making of our beds, taking out the trash. When

we do these with faith, hope and love, we will discover dish washing can also be holy work.

## **Large Group Closing Prayer**

Leader

God, You are in all things and all around us. Often we think You're here in church with us or when we pray but forget You are right there with us when we're at school, on the playground, or setting the table for dinner. Help us not miss out on You and help us to join You in all of the ordinary tasks of our lives from Monday to Sunday. We want to bring Your Kingdom presence everywhere we go! In Jesus' mighty name we pray, amen!

# Lesson 9 "God in Our Monday to Sunday" Small Group Time - Activity Guide

### 5 Minutes Work of a Week Race

-Clock or Timer -Paper to keep score, pen/pencil Divide the class into two teams. Put two minutes on the clock. The first person on each team runs to the teacher who is on the opposite side of the room and shouts a task they do anytime between Monday through Sunday, then runs back to the end of the line. The teacher writes down the tasks and keeps score. The team who lists the most tasks by the end of two minutes wins.

Review that God is in every day, every hour and every second of each week. Each of us lived 604,800 seconds this past week. God was in every moment of it whether we realized it or not.

## 10 Minutes God's Many Co-Workers Map

Have students draw a circle with their name in it. Connect the circles to show they are all part of one team. Ask them to fill out the following:

- Draw a line from your circle and list the chores you are responsible for
- Draw a line from your circle for each member of your family
- Write down what kind of work they do under their name and where they work

Remind the children that God calls us to partner with Him in all things. Imagine if everyone listed on the map knew God, the value of the work they do and did their jobs with faith, hope and love. How might that affect their boss or coworkers? How might that affect the customers?

## 15 Minutes The Kingdom Times

Distribute a copy of the sheet to each student. Ask them to think of someone they know well and what work they do that is often unnoticed or unappreciated. God values this work. Newspapers and the TV often recognize people who are famous as if the work they do is more valuable. But God notices every single person, and the ordinary work they do with faith, hope and love counts. Create a newspaper headline and article showing off this person the way God sees him/her – for example, "Today, Mrs. Smith Folded Her Laundry!" or "Henry Did His Homework!" They can give this to the person as a way to remind him his work truly matters.

#### 5 Minutes Work that Matters Worksheet

Ask students to fill out the sheet to find out what makes work matter.

-Work That Matters worksheets

## 5 Minutes Share & Pray

Ask students to lay their hands on the map they created and lead them to pray that each person listed would discover more of God in all 168 hours of each week and know how valuable their work is in God's eyes.

-Large sheet -Pencils

Crayons

# The Kingdom Times

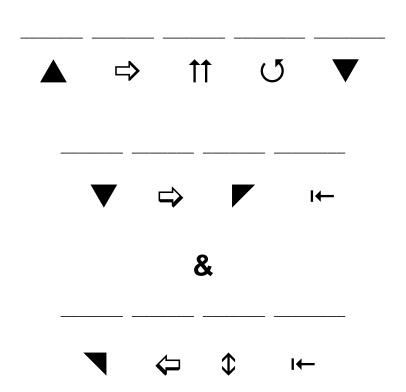
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## **WORK THAT MATTERS**

Fill in each letter using the code below to find out what kind of work matters!

To any task, BIG or small, Just add:



to produce GOOD work that MATTERS and LASTS!

$$\Leftrightarrow = 0$$
  $\uparrow \uparrow = I$   $\blacktriangleright = P$   $\vdash = E$   $\blacktriangle = F$   $\Rightarrow = A$   $\lnot = L$   $\blacktriangledown = H$   $\diamondsuit = V$   $\circlearrowleft = T$ 

## Lesson 9 "God in Our Monday to Sunday" Parent Sheet

## This Week's Main Idea: God is in our everyday work.

Every human being longs to make a difference. This is part of God's design for us. There are true and counterfeit ways to fulfill this longing. The counterfeit way is to use the people, things and abilities in our lives for our self. The life-giving way is to live seeing the people, things and abilities in our lives as gifts and responsibility given by God to steward and manage for Him. A steward is "a person who manages another's property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another or others." We see such a life of stewardship in Jesus. God's Son, washed the feet of his friends, the disciples, rather than seeking to have his feet washed. As we live and work as managers, we help bring God's presence into our broken world.

## Do This Week's Workout: Practicing the Presence of God

The Weekly Workout is a great way you can "Work" out the week's focus with your child – in action. Invite the whole family into this time! God IS at work.

Get together and give every member of the family a sheet of paper and pen/pencil.

- 1. Make a list of the kinds of tasks/activities you normally do Monday through Sunday.
- 2. Share your lists.
- 3. Go back through your lists and circle the tasks/activities where you MOST sense God's presence
- 4. Star the tasks/activities where you LEAST sense God's presence
- 5. Choose one of the starred tasks/activities to work on this week.

From Monday to Sunday, work on discovering God's presence in this task/activity by:

- Inviting God into it Pause before you start and remind yourself that God is there
- Ask God what it would look like to do this task/activity with faith, hope, and love
- Ask God for ideas (for example how to respond to someone, ideas for presents or a school project)
- Do the task/activity with faith, hope and love
- Encourage other family members who are working on their own tasks/activities

#### Talk about it:

How did it go? What changes occurred in discovering God's presence in this task/activity?



Lesson 9: God in Our Monday to Sunday

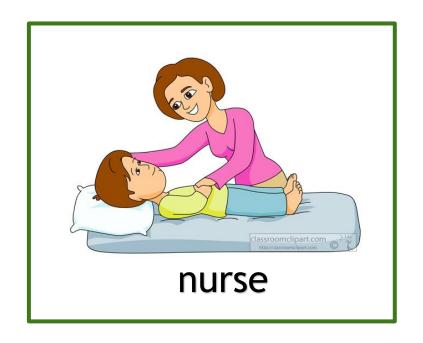
## Colossians 1:16-17

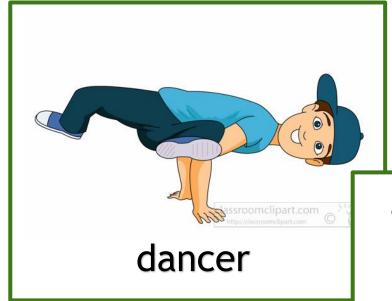
For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

## Deuteronomy 6:5

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

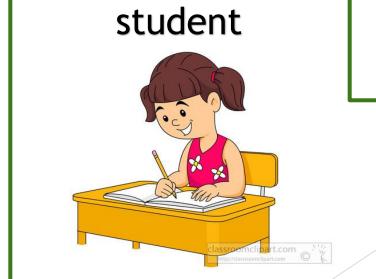




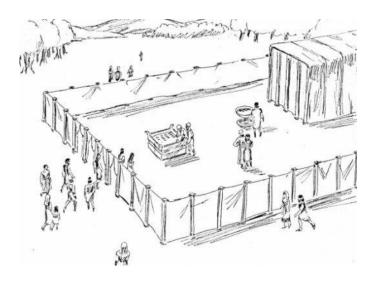






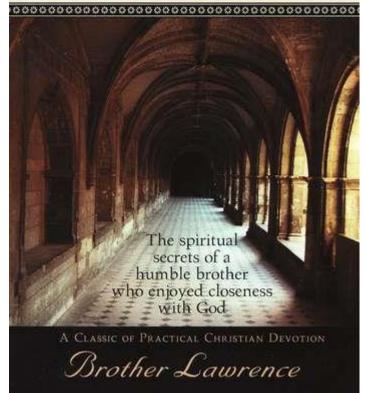


## Exodus 31:1-11



Then the LORD said to Moses, 2 "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, <sup>3</sup> and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills— 4 to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, 5 to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of crafts. 6 Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamak, of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded you: 7 the tent of meeting, the ark of the covenant law with the atonement cover on it, and all the other furnishings of the tent—8 the table and its articles, the pure gold lampstand and all its accessories, the altar of incense, 9 the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, the basin with its stand—10 and also the woven garments, both the sacred garments for Aaron the priest and the garments for his sons when they serve as priests, <sup>11</sup> and the anointing oil and fragrant incense for the Holy Place.

The Practice
of the
Presence of God
with Spiritual Maxims





## Lesson 10 "Light & Salt" Large Group Lesson

-Lesson 10 slides

Our work for God affects the world around us. MAIN IDEA:

### **OPENING**

Leader

We've been learning a lot of different things about work. To recap, God is a worker and part of His design for human beings is being co-workers with Him in His work. We get to partner with God in restoring all things back to His original design. We join Him by taking care of who and what He's given us, right where we are, with faith, hope and love.

-Slide 2

Scripture Lesson: Ask a child to stand and read for the group. Matthew 5:13-16 tells us the difference and impact Leader followers of Jesus make. | Slide 2|

> 13"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

-plain boiled potato or plain fries -fork -salt

Jesus compares his followers to salt and light. (Invite a child to come up.) (name of child) is going to taste this potato. If possible, I'd like you to eat all of it. How is it? Would you like some salt? (Add salt.) How is it now? (Thank student and ask them to return to their seat.) Have you ever had a meal without salt? It would be awful. Salt adds flavor. In Jesus' time, there were no refrigerators. Salt was used as a preservative to help keep food from spoiling. As the salt of the earth, Jesus says that our lives lived for Him add flavor to the people and situations around us, help prevent corruption and make the world a better place. Our influence – how we affect the actions, behavior or opinions of others - is how we are salt in this world.

-flashlight

-Slide 3

-Slide 4

-Slide 5

(Turn off the lights/make the room dark.) Jesus said we are also the light of the world. (Turn on flashlight.) Light helps brighten a dark place and also helps us to see things that need to be fixed. As we live as followers of Jesus, we also brighten the world with our good works and help people discover the ugliness of sin and the goodness of living life with God. When we share and show that we live for God, our witness is a light.

Today we're going to look at a few real-life stories of what living as salt and light can look like.

[Slide 3] Barry Meguiar is President and CEO of Meguiar's Car Care Products, one of the leading brands nationally and among the top five brands internationally. He also hosts a show called Car Crazy. His products are created with excellence. By working in the car industry, he is able to shine his light and share Jesus with people who would otherwise never hear about Jesus. By combining his faith and the unique passions God has given him, Barry connects and shines the love of Jesus to his employees. His joy and enthusiasm for life makes working at Meguiar's a great experience and shows what God has to offer.

Slide 4] Glad Heart Realty was created by Diane Bickle in June 2001 out of a desire to help people connect to something important to them. She sought to do that by connecting them to the right neighborhood and home. Today they have assisted 1,500 individuals in successfully purchasing and selling their homes. They are rated the top real estate company in the Kansas City area. Their agents go above what is expected to help clients find their homes and adjust to moving into their new location. By caring for their clients, Diane and her coworkers gave their customers a taste of God's love and made a real difference in something very important – choosing the right home – something difficult to do because of the time and money it takes to make this decision.

[Slide 5] Petyon Manning was the former quarterback for the Denver Broncos. He received the MVP award for most valuable player in his league 5 times – a league record, won two Super Bowls and played for 18 seasons. Peyton played football well and he played it for God. The words of the people who worked with him when he retired in 2016 show how he was light and salt to them.

"Peyton Manning's extraordinary career was driven by his talent, an incredible work ethic, and an unwavering desire to be the best and ended so perfectly for him with a Super Bowl victory," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement. "...He has served as a great representative of the NFL both on the field and in his community."

Tennessee football coach Butch Jones said, "Peyton defines excellence in every sense of the word."

"It was a blessing to coach Peyton Manning. Nobody worked harder at the game and nobody prepared harder than Peyton," Broncos coach Gary Kubiak said in a statement. "His preparation was the best I've ever seen with how he went about his business. There was nothing like his work habits. Each and every week, he did everything he could to get ready to play not only against the defense but even against the coordinator."

"Peyton, he made me better. He made a lot of guys better," former Broncos and Colts wide receiver Brandon Stokley said. "We would have made the NFL probably, but Peyton made us all better. We were more because we played with Peyton Manning. And just think about how many guys can say that."

Through faithfulness over tough and long periods of time, Peyton was salt and light in the world of football by inspiring others with excellence and making them better and giving a taste of work done with faith, hope and love.

As you live for Jesus each moment, each day, being faithful with the people and work you have, you will be salt and light to those around you.

## **Large Group Closing Prayer**

Leader

Jesus, thank You for dying for us so that we could be partners in Your work to restore our world back to the original design. We have no power of our own but when we partner with You, You fill our work and something

### GOD'S STORY OF WORK - LESSON 10

greater happens. Our work is able to touch and heal lives, brighten the world and make it better because You are in it. We give you our lives and this upcoming week, and ask that You lead us. Help us to be faithful managers of it. In Jesus' name we pray, amen!

# Lesson 10 "Light & Salt" Small Group Time - Activity Guide

-Straws cut to different lengths -Handkerchiefs/ Blindfolds -Timer

## 7 Minutes The Power of Light

Pair up students. Explain that one teammate will be blindfolded by the other. After being blindfolded, the other teammate will hand them 10 straws of different lengths. In one minute, they must line up the straws by height order. After one minute, switch so that the other teammate has a turn. Repeat the activity – this time with no blindfold.

Review - Having light makes life so much easier. It makes an incredible difference. Jesus calls us the light of the world. We can help people see a better way to live and show who God is by living for Jesus and being lights.

## 15 Minutes My Salt & Light Impact Worksheet

Review what it means to be salt and light as identified on the sheet. Have students fill out the sheet to identify where they are and can be salt and light.

-my SALT and LIGHT worksheets -Pencils

After students have filled out the sheet, ask them to put a ( \*\stack\*) next to the names/places where they are being salt and light. Ask them to circle one area in each category where they need God's help to be better salt/light.

Ask – What is one thing you can do to be better salt/light to this person/place?

Review – Ask students what it might be like to live in a world where no food had any salt and to live without light. Salt and light make such a big difference in our daily life and Jesus was very intentional when he used these 2 things to compare what Christians are like. Though students might not think so, when they live for Jesus in our broken world, they bring an incredible taste of God through actions, words and behaviors that are salt and light to those around them.

-One or the Other Game cards

### 8 Minutes One or the Other Game

Talk about how every time we meet someone or do something we have two choices. We either give light by shining for Jesus or we bring darkness. Pair up students and have each pair pick one card from the pile. One person will demonstrate what it's like to be Salt or Light. The other person will demonstrate what it's like to not be Salt or Light. Give students a couple of minutes to plan then go around the room to each pair.

### 5 Minutes Share & Pray

Ask students to pray for each other for the areas circled on their worksheet. Remind them that God listens to their prayers.

## my SALT and LIGHT impact



SALT =	People I influence			
Whose actions, behavior or opinions do or can I affect?				
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				



LIGHT = My witness	
Where do I have opportunity to shine light through g	ood work?
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	<del></del>
10	<u>.</u>

## **ONE or the OTHER CARDS**

Your sister asks how she looks.	Your mom asks if you can help with the dishes.
You walk into a lunchroom and see your friends. You also see someone sitting alone.	Your friend has the answers to the test and offers to share them with you.
Your baby brother keeps following you around.	Your family is watching TV and no one else wants to watch the show you want.
You stand up in class to do a presentation.	You're tired and you have piano practice.
Your friends are talking about one of your classmates and making fun of them.	Your parents ask how your day is going.

## Lesson 10 "Light & Salt" Parent Sheet

## This Week's Main Idea: Our work for God affects the world around us.

We learned today that Jesus calls us the "salt of the earth" and "light of the world." Salt adds flavor and in Jesus' day, was used as a preservative to help keep food from spoiling. As the salt of the earth, Jesus says that our lives lived for Him helps prevent corruption and makes the world a better place. **Our influence** – how we affect the actions, behavior or opinions of others – is how we are **salt** in this world. Light helps brighten a dark place and shows things that need fixing. As we choose to shine the love and truth of Jesus through words and actions, we help people realize the reality and ugliness of sin and the goodness of God. Our **witness** is how we are **light** in this world.

### Do This Week's Workout: Thermostat Time

The Weekly Workout is a great way you can "Work" out the week's focus with your child – in action. Invite the whole family into this time! God IS at work.

A thermostat sets the temperature in the room. Brainstorm together ways your family can be a salt and light thermostat this week in the place you decide.

Depending on your family's schedule, pick an activity:

## Living Salty 1 - Practicing the Power of Positive Presence

Ask each family member to share the kind of words you hear and attitudes you see throughout the week. How does that affect you? Each family member will pick an area where they interact with people regularly. Agree as a family to be positive and life-giving (different from faking cheer) in words and attitude this week in the area picked. Create a chart and prep some star stickers. Each night that a family member is overall successful, they can stick on a star sticker. Celebrate your success!

-or-

## **Living Salty 2 - Family Project**

Think of a place your whole family can show up and serve together in some way. Do something that goes beyond what's expected. Examples:

- Practice the art of balloon animal making and show up at a playground.
- Bake and package cookies for the local soup kitchen –add a handwritten note such as "Thinking of and praying for you." Pray over the recipients.
- Prepare a small thoughtful goody bag and go out to eat. Show interest and attention to the wait staff – be polite, helpful, and show appreciation for their service. If there's something that stood out that you want to acknowledge, you could write a note on the receipt and leave the goody bag (in addition to the tip).

### Talk about it:

Whose life did you brighten? What might the day or moment been like for people you interacted with if you didn't "salt" it?



Lesson 10: Light and Salt

## Matthew 5:13-16

<sup>13</sup> You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

# Barry Meguiar









## GLAD HEART REALTY

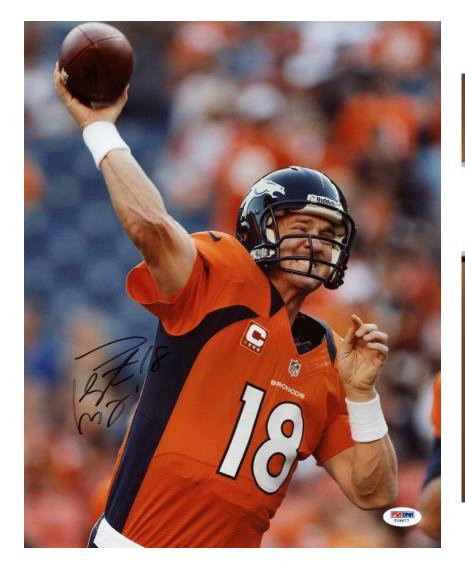
Because Where You Live Matters

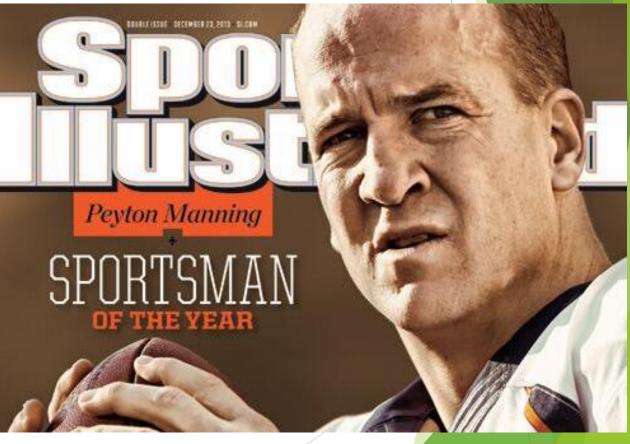


## Diane Bickle



# Peyton Manning





# Lesson 11 "Turning Up the Wattage" Large Group Lesson

-Lesson 11 slides

**MAIN IDEA:** 

God's light in us shines brighter in our world as we

grow in our relationship WITH God.

**OPENING** 

-Box filled with random items including loose sheets of paper to help make a mess Leader

(Tip over box "accidentally.") I don't know about you, but when there's a mess, I'd rather walk away to something new rather than do the hard work of cleaning it up. Thankfully our God is NOT like me.

In the beginning, God created a beautiful world full of life and joy. It was broken by sin when Adam and Eve chose to go against God's command. Slide 2 Today we see the mess that resulted as we look around us. There are big issues like poverty that affect millions and we also see brokenness in everyday life— unkindness, mean words, jealousy, selfishness, and people being left out. Because of sin, relationships with God, ourselves, people and creation were broken. People often used their abilities and power to hurt and do bad things instead of good.

But the good news is that God did not turn His back on us or the messy broken state of things. Slide 3 God sent His only Son Jesus to enter this mess, pay for our sin, to make a way to restore the world back to His original design. By believing in Jesus, we, who should have received death, instead have the special privilege of knowing God. As children we get to partner with God and as His children are given His authority to heal and fill dark areas of the world we live in – everyday conversations, classrooms, grocery stores and more - with light and joy!

If every person on this planet knew God and this truth – can you imagine what the world would be like? Cliques and bullying would not exist in schools. Teachers, police officers, government officials, business workers would do their very best. Schools would be welcoming and exciting places to learn. There would be no trash in our streets. Everyone would have a home, friends and food to eat. Not a single animal or person would be abused or alone. People would listen to each other, see

-Slide 2

the value of each person and all of God's creation, and partner with God to bring hope and healing back to His original design!

God is actively moving through girls and boys, women and men all over the world who are looking to partner in all of life with Him. But there's something very important to remember when we look to be God's partner.

Take a look at this lamp. Oh boy! It's not working! (Allow kids to call out and advise you to plug in the power cord.)
Oh, that's right! It's not plugged in.

It's the same with us! God has given us a lot of power and ability to light up the world and restore things to His original design. But the key is – we must be plugged in to God. We are able to be our full selves and bring Kingdom change only when we walk in relationship with God.

Think of the best relationship you have. Who are you closest to? How come? (Allow kids to answer.) To become close to someone, you have to get to know them. It takes time. When you spend time together you might share things with each other, laugh together, share something hard you're going through, help each other, play together, encourage and challenge each other. With a good friend, you spend the time enjoying and loving each other. The same is true with God.

It takes time to know God and the more you come to know God, the more plugged in you become.

Here's 3 simple ways to grow in knowing God:

1. Include God [slide 4]

God is everywhere but He doesn't force himself to become your friend. In whatever you do, you can pause, talk to Him and invite Him into whatever you're doing – whether that's homework, playing sports or music, dancing, or cleaning.

### 2. Be Honest slide 5

True relationships grow stronger out of honesty. It's funny how often people who know God try to only give God "good answers" when God knows everything. They try to be "good children" who are always positive and on their best behavior. God knows our hearts and He

-Lamp on stage (unplugged) with a power outlet nearby

-Slide 4

loves to share our life with us. We can be completely honest with what we say or ask. If we're sad or angry, we can tell Him that. If we don't want to do something, we can tell Him that too. Talk to God and see how He responds.

3. Listen for God slide 6

One of the best ways to grow in knowing someone is asking them questions about themselves and listening. Often when people pray, they are busy telling God things. A friendship takes a two-way conversation. If only one person talks all the time and never listens, it's not a friendship. You can find out more about who God is by reading the Bible. If there's things you don't understand – ask God to help you understand. Ask God your questions throughout the day. Listen for what He might show you. God might speak directly to your heart or answer you through someone or something else. God loves having a relationship with us.

Scripture Lesson: Ask a child to stand and read for the group.

Leader: In the Bible is someone who is now one of the most well-known of all the people recorded in the Bible.

Before he became famous, he was just a little lightbulb but as he got more and more plugged in with God, his light grew and grew and affected the entire nation of Israel. Can you guess who this might be? (Allow children to shout out guesses.)

Yes, you got it! King David is famous – he was a beloved king of Israel and the nation experienced an awesome time as God's people under his leadership. He is also the only person referred to by God as a "man after his own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14)

Long before David became king, he was just a young boy. Like many other youngest in an Israelite home, he had the smelly job of taking care of the family sheep. Even at that young age, David knew God and included God in his work of being a shepherd. He would sing songs to God while out with the sheep and asked God to help him when a bear or lion attacked the sheep. A lot of other children would have run off but David stood to fight them and protect his sheep.

-Slide 7

## Psalm 23, and many other psalms or songs, was written by David: [Slide 7]

- <sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
- <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
- <sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.
- <sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- <sup>6</sup>Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Starting from when he was little, David grew in relationship with God. He would include God in his celebrations and in times when things were scary or hard. David was honest. His songs are full of his feelings of anger, sadness, joy and questions. When David made a big mistake, he talked to God about what he did wrong. King David had a two way relationship with God. He would listen for what God wanted again and again. And over time, David's light for God grew.

David went from being someone that shone for God in the fields with the sheep, to someone who shone for God in the army fighting the giant Goliath and other enemies, to someone who ruled over the nation of Israel as king. He was someone plugged in to God.

Sometimes, especially at first, it may not be easy to be plugged in to God. If you haven't yet experienced God speaking to you, it may seem hard to sit still and listen. Any relationship is more awkward and harder in the beginning. But God promises that we will find Him when we look for Him with all our heart. (Jeremiah 29:13)

As you include God in all you do, are honest with Him and listen for Him, you'll grow in shining brighter for God no matter what you do. And His light shining through you, will touch lives all around you!

## **Large Group Closing Prayer**

Leader:

God, thank You for being the eternal Light that shines in our darkness. Nothing and no one can put out Your Light. As Your children, You shine Your light in and through us. Help us grow in our relationship with You, so we can shine brightly and bring hope all around us. In Jesus' name, amen!

# Lesson 11 "Turning Up the Wattage" Small Group Time - Activity Guide

-paper and pencil for each student or team

## 7 Minutes Electrical Impact

Pair up students or have them work on their own. Give each person or team a paper and pencil. Give 2 minutes to jot down as many things in the home that would be affected if they couldn't be plugged in.

Review - We're so used to having electricity today that we pretty much take it for granted. If we had a blackout for 2 hours, we would miss some of the things we're used to using. It's harder to realize the impact, but imagine what our world is like with people not plugged in to God and if all people were plugged in to God! What would that be like?

-Psalm 23 worksheets

## 15 Minutes Psalm 23 Study

Read through Psalm 23 together.

- 1. Have students circle key words that stand out to them.
- 2. Ask for students to write down 5 things about who God is and what He is like based on how David speaks about God in this psalm.
- 3. Which of these mean the most to you at this moment? Can you explain?

Review – Ask students how we come to know someone is trustworthy or loving? It's usually because we've experienced this about them. What does this tell us about David? The Old Testament tells us many stories of David's experiences with God but it still doesn't capture everything. From childhood, David grew in relationship with God and so can we – each day and each moment.

-posterboard, post-it Notes, markers, pens for each team

### 10 Minutes Plugging In

Divide the class into 3 teams. One team will brainstorm ways to **include God** into their everyday life. The second team will brainstorm what it means to **be honest** with God in everyday life. What else is there besides telling God about something you did wrong? The third team will brainstorm about how **to listen** for God. What are ways they've heard from God? What would help someone hear from God?

Give each team 8 minutes to work and set up their posterboard and then invite each team to share. Invite non-team members to share ideas they have for other team's boards.

Review: Ask – What is one thing listed that you would like to try this week?

#### 3 Minutes Share & Prav

Ask for prayer request. Pray and bless the students asking God to reveal more of Himself to them in everyday life.

Name:				
-------	--	--	--	--



## Psalm 23

Read through it quickly.
Read through it again slowly and circle key words that stand out to you.

A psalm of David.	What are 5 things about God and His character that David shows in his song to God?
¹The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, ³ he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. ⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,[²]	shows in his song to God?
I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  5You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me	Which one means the most to you and why?
all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.	

## Lesson 11 "Turning Up the Wattage" Parent Sheet

# This Week's Main Idea: God's light in us shines brighter in our world as we grow in our relationship WITH God.

We learned today that our source of power in partnering with God is God! We're a lightbulb that can only be lit when plugged into the source of Light – God. As we grow in relationship with Him, we are able to more fully be ourselves, use our gifts and be aligned with His desires and work. We learned that growing in relationship with God is like any relationship – it takes a commitment of spending time together where we **include God, are honest with God,** and **listen for God.** As we become more aware of God, we will grow in partnering with Him to restore His original design.

## Do This Week's Workout: Daily Awareness of God

The Weekly Workout is a great way you can "Work" out the week's focus with your child – in action. Invite the whole family into this time! God IS at work.

## **Option 1: Pray the Examen Individually & Share:**

- 1. As a family, dedicate 15 to 20 minutes of each weekday evening to gather, set a clock and find a quiet space of your own to pray the Examen. The Examen is a way to pray -reviewing your day in the presence of God. It's more of an attitude of wanting to be near God than a method a time set aside for thankful reflection on where God is in your everyday life. It has five steps, usually taken in order, and usually takes 15 to 20 minutes per day
- 2. Print the Examen guide for each family member.
- 3. Once 15 or 20 minutes is over, gather together and share 1 sentence each of something you sensed of God, where you saw God, what He shared with you or anything else on your hear.

## Or Option 2: Talk over these questions over dinner as a family:

- 1. For what time or event today are you most grateful (thankful/happy)? (Initially, you may have to name a few things in a young child's day to help them catch on to the practice for #1 and #2.)
- 2. For which moment are you least grateful?
- 3. How did you show love today?
  - (For very young children, you may ask additional questions as your family begins this spiritual practice. Ex.: Who did you share with today? Who did you help today? It won't be long before they understand the question and can reflect and respond without your assistance.)
- 4. What was one time your actions or behavior were negative or you withheld showing kindness?
  - (Again, for young children you might ask: Was there a time you did not share today? Was there a time you said a hurtful word or did not help?
- 5. Briefly give thanks for this time of reflection and sharing and for God teaching each of you to be more loving.

From St. Ignatius, the Examen is a 500 year old guide for a reflective prayer that helps pause and realize more of God's presence in our everyday lives.

## Praying the EXAMEN

## Ask God for His light to shine on your thoughts

We want to invite God into this reflection time, to see it with God's eyes, not just our own.

## 2. Give thanks

Think of 1 or 2 small or big things you are grateful for from today.

### 3. Review the day

Review your day hour by hour as led by Godhow did you awake? Where did you sense God the most? Where did you feel the farthest or most unaware of Him? Sit with whatever seems most important that God wants to show you. (The whole prayer is a reflection to create a habit of awareness rather than sitting too long into details)

### 4. Face your shortcomings

Talk to God about where you fell short of His desires. Ask and receive His forgiveness. If there is something to make right make a note of it.

#### 5. Look toward the day to come

Ask where you need God's presence in the day to come.

## Praying the EXAMEN

## Ask God for His light to shine on your thoughts

We want to invite God into this reflection time, to see it with God's eyes, not just our own.

#### 7. Give thanks

Think of 1 or 2 small or big things you are grateful for from today.

### 8. Review the day

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#### 9. Face your shortcomings

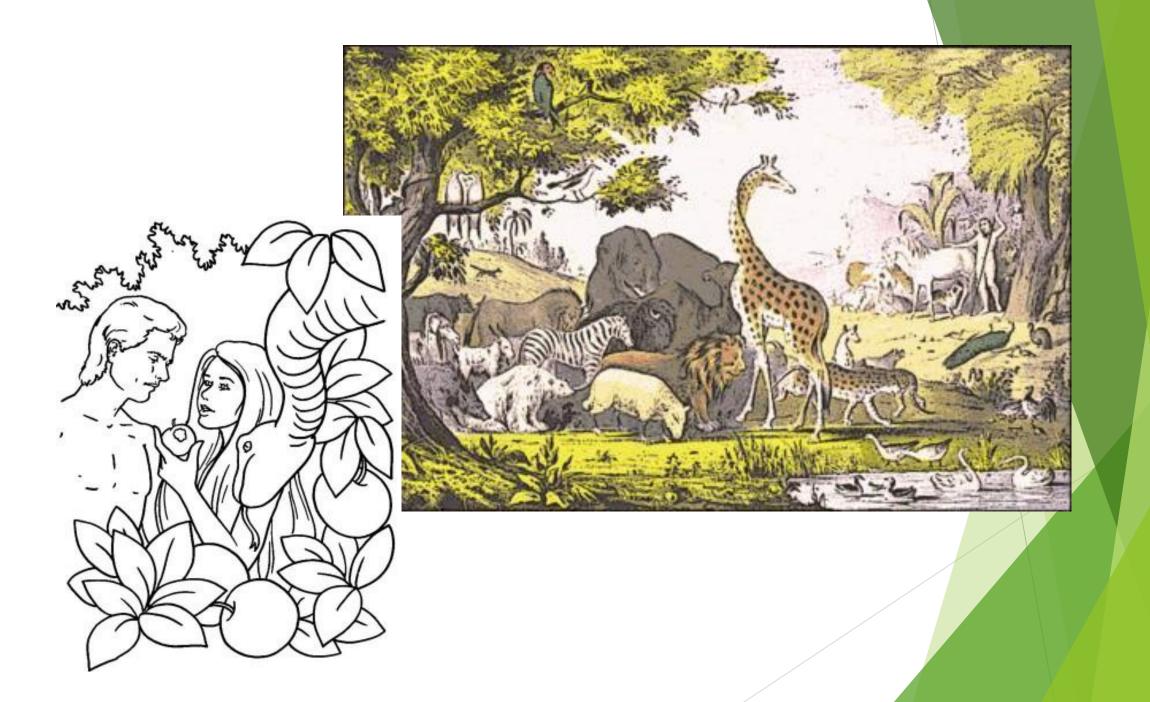
Talk to God about where you fell short of His desires. Ask and receive His forgiveness. If there is something to make right make a note of it.

## 10. Look toward the day to come

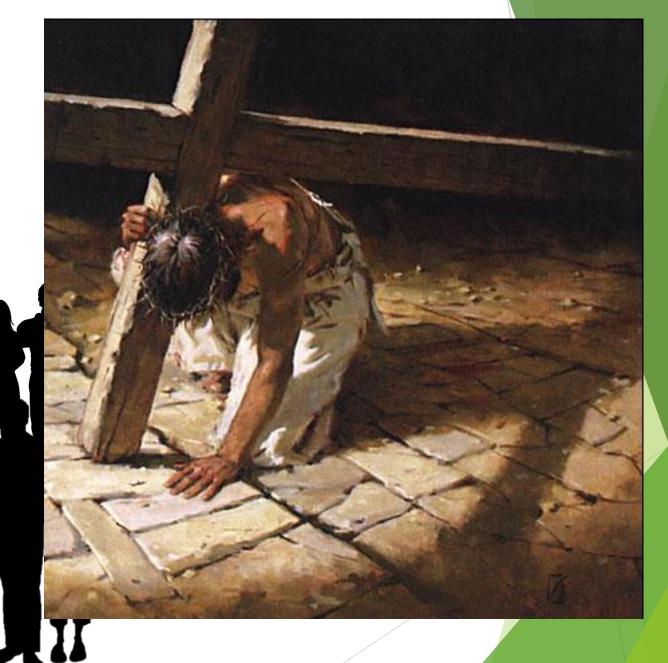
Ask where you need God's presence in the day to come.



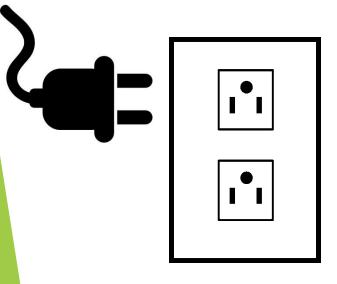
Lesson 11: Turning Up the Wattage



Jesus came to fix the mess our sin made by dying on the cross for us!



# 3 Ways to Grow in Knowing God

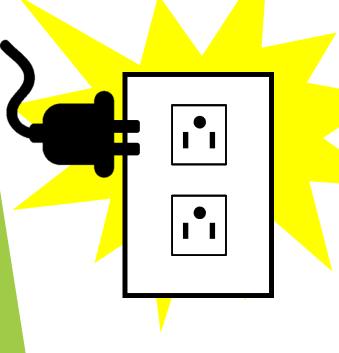


#1 - Include God

# 3 Ways to Grow in Knowing God



# 3 Ways to Grow in Knowing God

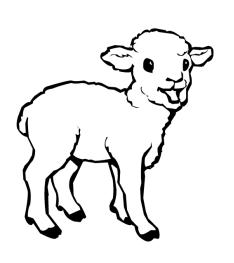


#1 - Include God

#2 - Be Honest

#3 - Listen for God

### Psalm 23



<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,
<sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil,

for you are with me; your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

#### Lesson 12 "Work Rewards" Large Group Lesson

-Lesson 12 slides

MAIN IDEA: God will reward our work and the best is yet to come!

#### **OPENING** Leader

-An object for each material listed: gold, silver, costly stones. wood, hay or straw (if hard to obtain, show a picture)

God is all around us and in the everyday, ordinary work you do as well as times you may have to make more public, seen impact. The work you do matters today - it shapes you and affects the people around you. All the work you do in your life will also matter on that special day when Jesus returns!

> I have a bunch of items here. (Explain what the items are – for example, my ring that's made of pure gold, an earring that is silver, etc.) Can someone come up and organize them in the order of most value? (Invite a student to come up and then have them explain why they put things in the order they did.) Some of these materials cost a lot more than others. They also last longer.

(This portion is optional.)

Let's see what happens in the fire. (Place a gold/silver object in an uncovered glass, place the small piece of dry hay or dry wood in another uncovered glass, light a match and put in each cup.)

If a fire happened, the wood, hay or straw would burn up and become ashes. But the gold, silver and precious stones would still be sitting there when the flames die away. They can endure incredibly high temperatures.

The Bible compares our work and the kind of person we are becoming to these things. Work that lasts and earns a reward is the good work that we do with faith, hope and love. When you clean your room or take care of your brother or sister with love, it's like gold. As you work with faith, hope and love, you become more and more like Jesus – a person who has good character, can be depended on, is able to endure tough situations, is caring, and more.

When we do work without faith, hope and love, that work is like wood, hay or straw - it doesn't last very long and

-match, 2 glasses, a gold or silver object you're willing to burn (could be a piece of jewelry), a small clump of hay or piece of wood doesn't have much value. Let's take a look at the passage

Scripture Lesson: Ask a child to stand and read for the group.

[Slide 2] 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 says:

<sup>12</sup> If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. <sup>14</sup> If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved – even though only as one escaping through the flames.

Leader

These verses show us that God cares about the work we do. The word "foundation" in verse 12 is Jesus. All the work we do is built on who Jesus is and what He has done for us. As we follow Jesus in doing our work for Him with faith, hope and love, we build up God's kingdom using gold, silver and costly stones.

The "Day" mentioned in verse 13 is the Judgment Day when Jesus returns. One day, Jesus promises that He will return. When He does, each of us will stand before Him. Revelations, the last book of the Bible, tells us that books will be opened about our lives and the name of each person who knows Jesus will be written in the book of life. Those who don't know Jesus will not have their names in this book.

For those that are listed in the book of life, the verses we read tell us that the work of each of our lives will be tested by fire. Our actions, small or big, our attitudes, our words, our thoughts - our entire life and how we lived it - matters to God and will be tested.

When tested, our life will come up as having been built with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw – these will show the way you lived your life and the kind of person you've become.

Depending on this test, the Bible mentions two kinds of crowns that God will award. [Slide 3] The first, written as stephanos in the original Greek language of the New Testament, was a crown of victory such as those made

-Slide 2

<sup>-</sup>Slide 3
- crown made of twisted artificial vines (can usually be found at dollar stores)

-sparkling crown or Slide 4 of laurel leaf and given to Olympic athletes. (Show crown made of twisted vines.) This kind of crown was given to those who overcame difficult situations.

A diadem was a crown worn by rulers which was studded with precious stones. (Show sparkling crown.) In Daniel 12:3 God says, "Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever." Some people will receive this crown for all the souls they led to know God.

Then the BIGGEST, BEST wedding party will begin when Jesus presents all of us who are the Church to God. We will enter an eternal life with God and without sin or pain – we will see Jesus face to face. When we see Jesus, we will want to offer him something – some kind of gesture of love and worship. Rather than keeping them, we will be so glad to cast our crowns at Jesus' feet in adoration of who He is! Our work becomes worship even to the very end.

This day will come unexpectedly. It might be tomorrow, it might be years from now. We don't know the date for when Jesus will return but what we do know is that our work matters very much to God.

It's through our attitudes and actions in the work we do, that we ourselves grow and change. We can become bitter or lazy or we become stronger and honest. Not only do we change but our work and who we become through it, can impact so many people around us – our parents, our siblings, our friends, classmates, teachers, neighbors and so many more.

We all have things we don't enjoy doing. But these are the very things that can change us the most. The next time you start folding laundry or do homework and want to groan – just remember, God's in it! And what you're doing is holy when you do it with faith, hope and love and counts for eternity. One day he will say to you, "Well done!"

And just think – most likely work continues in heaven.
Only it won't be broken work with the pain,
fruitlessness, and struggle we experience here. It will be

-prop of laundry basket with some clothes

work that is full of joy, creativity and fruit – just as God designed for it to be. Work will be fun and fulfilling in every way.

#### **Large Group Closing Prayer**

#### Leader

God, it's amazing that the work we do – even ordinary things like folding laundry – matters to You! Help us become aware of Your presence in all things and grow in doing small and big work with faith, hope and love. Shape us to become more like You as we do. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Lesson 12 "Work Rewards" Small Group Time - Activity Guide

-Gold, Stones, Straw scenario list

#### 7 Minutes Gold, Stones, Straw

Teach kids the motions for Gold, Stones, Straw. The motions are:

- Gold: arms straight down, held tightly against each side
- Stones: both hands open with fingers wiggling to symbol "twinkling"
- Straw: arms straight up and hands clasped to look like a straight line

Review the meaning of each building material. Gold and stones both last through fire – these refer to work that is done for God with faith, hope and love. Stones are most likely referring to work that helps people come to believe and live for Jesus. Straw is work that doesn't last – it's either done for oneself but definitely not for God.

Read aloud a scenario from the list. Kids jump into the material pose that they think the scenario shows.

-1 Cor. 3:12-15 worksheets

#### 15 Minutes 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 Study

Read through the passage together out loud. Have students answer the questions. Gold and silver are purified by fire and precious stones are produced out of incredible environments of pressure and heat. Wood, hay and straw become ashes and disappear when burnt.

Review – Who can you think of in the Bible that lived a life that was probably built with gold, silver and precious stones? How about in real life? Who can you think of in the Bible that lived a life that was probably built with straw, hay or wood?

-Stationery paper, pen/pencil and an envelope for each child -Instrumental worship music track if possible

#### 10 Minutes Letters to Jesus

This is the last session of this curriculum. Give each student a sheet of stationery, an envelope and a pen. Invite them to write to Jesus. He sees each of them and loves them very much. Each of them bring joy to His heart. Ask them to take some time to write a letter to Jesus about 3 things:

- 1. Their favorite kind of work
- 2. The work they find hardest
- 3. The kind of life they want to build

Have them seal their letters and hold them in the closing prayer. (Play instrumental worship music in the background as students work if possible.)

#### 3 Minutes Share & Pray

Ask for any prayer requests. Pray for these and pray a prayer of blessing over each student asking God to lead them to build lives that are built with gold, silver and costly stones by the power of His Holy Spirit.

#### Gold, Stones, Straw Scenarios

- 1. I cheated by copying the answers from my friend. (Straw)
- 2. Sally helped her little sister clean up her mess with love. (Gold)
- 3. Bill shared who Jesus is to him with a classmate. (Stones)
- 4. David listened to his friend who was very upset. (Gold)
- 5. Nobody saw her, but Teresa did her best to clean her room. (Gold)
- 6. Jessie kicked the garbage can because she didn't get ice cream. (Straw)
- 7. Even though he was made fun of by Tom, George prayed for Tom to know Jesus everyday. (Stones)
- 8. Kathy invited all of her classmates to her house to make cookies and study the Bible. (Stones)
- 9. I forgot to study because I was on the computer until late. (Straw)
- 10. Steve shared his lunch with Mike because he had forgotten to pack lunch. (Gold)

(Feel free to add your own scenarios! @)

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### **Building My Life**

Read through the verses quickly. Read through it again slowly and circle key words that stand out to you.

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1 Corinthians 3:12-15

What happens to gold, silver or costly stones when tested by fire?		
What happens to wood, hay or straw when tested by fire?		

#### **Building Supplies**

List the kinds of actions, attitude, words that best fit each category.

Gold, Silver, Costly Stones	Wood, Hay, Straw

## Lesson 12 "Work Rewards" Parent Sheet

### This Week's Main Idea: God will reward our work and the best is yet to come!

We reviewed today that all of our work – small and big, ordinary or special – matters very much to God. We learned that one day when Jesus returns he will test the quality of our work and the lives we have lived with fire. Some lives will show they were built with gold, silver and costly stones and survive the fire. Others will show wood, hay or straw. The quality that is shown reflects both the work we do and the people we have become. Each person will be rewarded accordingly. Our work shapes who we are. As we work for Jesus each day, may we become more like Him and may our lives come forth like gold.

#### Do This Week's Workout: Celebrate!

These past 12 weeks you and your family have shared a journey of learning and growing together in seeing God in our everyday work.

Plan a party to celebrate the work of each person and who they were uniquely designed by God to be.

#### Some ideas:

- Have each person make a dish that another family member likes
- Personalize each place setting with not just the person's name, but the kind of work they do and a big "THANK YOU!"
- Make crowns out of artificial or real vines and have each person wear them
- Use gold colored plates as a symbol of the value of each person's work done with faith, hope and love
- Pray a prayer of blessing over everyone and their work before you eat –
  personalize it and make it special by praying for each person specifically
- Talk about the past 12 weeks and what learning point you want to keep practicing or remembering
- Serve some sparkling apple cider or other drink and make a toast to each person by shouting out something about who they are or their work
- Make it a team party everyone helps set up, everyone helps clean up



Lesson 12: Work Rewards

## 1 Corinthians 3:12-15

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stephanos



diadem