

**BIBLE PASSAGE**

Nehemiah 8:1-12

**LIFE POINT**

The Bible helps people know more about God.

**CHRIST FOCUS**

Jesus died to rescue us from sin.

**LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING**

The Bible is God's message about Himself.

**SUGGESTED USE DATE:** June 18

**BIBLE VERSE**

LORD my God, you have done many things—your wondrous works and your plans for us; none can compare with you.

Psalm 40:5 (CSB)

Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee.

Psalm 40:52 (KJV)

Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you.

Psalm 40:5 (NIV)

You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you!

Psalm 40:5 (ESV)

Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order. Psalm 40:5 (NKJV)

**SCHEDULE AND PROPS****Huddle Ups (Optional)**

Supplies (for each small group):

- “Group Juggling”—red, blue, and green balls (1 of each color)
- “Three in a Row”—Bible, painter’s tape, 2 sheets of colored paper (different colors), scissors, marker, beanbag

**Countdown Video (3 minutes)**

Props: none

**Worship Song (3 minutes)**

Props: none

**Welcome and Prayer (5 minutes)**

Props: none

**True2Life Drama (or Mooseberry video) (3-5 minutes)**

Props: box of baseball cards

**Connection Point Game**

(10 minutes)

Props: none

**Worship Song (3 minutes)**

Props: none

**Bible Story (10 minutes)**

Props: Bible, 2 chairs, yarn, binder clip, 2 sheets of paper, marker, tape

**Worship Song and Offering (3 minutes)**

Props: none

**Connection Point Bible Verse (5-8 minutes)**

Props: buzzer or whistle, timer

**Connection Point Missions (5-8 minutes)**

Props: none

**Real Life Connections (3-5 minutes)**

Props: none

**MUSIC AND MEDIA**

- **Countdown:**  
Countdown video
- **Worship Song:**  
“Oh, How You Love Us”
- **Welcome and Prayer:**  
Life Point and Bible Verse slides
- **True2Life Drama:**  
Mooseberry Life Application video (optional)
- **Connection Point Game:**  
Connection Point Game slide
- **Worship Song:**  
“Light in the Darkness”
- **Bible Story:**  
Bible Story and Christ Focus slides, Notebook Bible Story video (optional)
- **Worship Song and Offering:**  
Worship song of your choice
- **Connection Point Bible Verse:**  
Connection Point Bible Verse and Bible Verse slides
- **Connection Point Missions:**  
Connection Point Missions and Connect to Missions slides; “North African Missions” missions video
- **Real Life Connections:**  
Real Life Connections, Real Life Questions, and Life Point slides

## **HUDDLE UPS (OPTIONAL)**

Huddle Ups are for churches that have a drop-off time before the session begins or a pick-up time as parents arrive at the end of the session. It's a great time for interaction with a small group leader through games, conversations, or review questions. Play the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups and the beginning of the session.

- ➔ Estimated time: varies according to schedule
- ➔ Tech: none
- ➔ People: Small Group Leaders
- ➔ Supplies *(for each small group)*:
  - “Group Juggling”—red, blue, and green balls *(1 of each color)*
  - “Three in a Row”—Bible, painter’s tape, 2 sheets of colored paper *(different colors)*, scissors, marker, beanbag

### **HUDDLE UP: PRE-SESSION**

#### **“GROUP JUGGLING”**

*Prep: none*

- Challenge kids to recall the first Bible stories they heard.
- Emphasize the value of being a lifelong Bible learner.
- Guide kids to form a circle.
- Toss the red ball from person to person in a random pattern until everyone catches the ball.
- Advise kids to remember the toss/catch order.
- Begin again, tossing the red ball in the same order.
- Add the blue ball, tossing it in the same order. *(Both balls will be in motion simultaneously.)*
- Add the green ball after kids master the stunt with two balls.
- Challenge kids to continue the juggling pattern until you say: “Stop!”
- Lead each person holding a ball to respond as follows:
  - Red—Tell something you have learned from the Bible
  - Blue—What is something you would like to learn from the Bible?
- Green—Name someone you can read about in the Bible.
- Repeat as time allows or until everyone responds to each question.
- Explain that the Bible is God’s message about Himself. The Bible helps people know more about God.
- Watch for the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups. Guide your small group to join the others to begin worship.

### **HUDDLE UP: POST-SESSION**

#### **“THREE IN A ROW”**

*Prep: Tape a large 3-by-3 grid on the floor. Place a small strip of tape inside each grid square. On each strip of tape write a different Scripture reference: Genesis 1:1; Joshua 1:9; Psalm 18:30; Psalm 46:1; Psalm 147:5; Isaiah 40:28; Romans 5:8; James 1:5; Revelation 1:8. Cut each sheet of colored paper into 6 squares.*

- Review the Life Point: **The Bible helps people know more about God.**
- Suggest kids play a game to discover some of the things the Bible teaches about God.
- Form two teams.
- Assign a color to each team.
- Give each team a set of colored squares in their assigned color.
- Choose a team to play first.
- Invite a player to toss a beanbag onto the grid.
- Lead the team to find the Scripture reference in a Bible and read it aloud.
- Discuss what the verse teaches about God.
- Allow the team to place a colored square in the space.
- Alternate turns between teams.
- Play until a team places three paper squares in a row *(horizontally, vertically, or diagonally)*.
- Clear the grid and play again as time allows.
- Remind kids that the Bible is God’s message about Himself.
- Encourage kids to read their Bibles every day!

## COUNTDOWN VIDEO

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Countdown Video
- ➔ People: none
- ➔ Props: none

*(Play the Countdown video to signal the beginning of worship time. Kids will count aloud as they join the large group.)*

## WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: “Oh, How You Love Us” *(lead sheet available on DVD-ROM)* or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

### **WORSHIP LEADER**

Hi, kids! Welcome to church! We know something wonderful that we should tell others. We know that God loves us! Turn to a friend and say: “God loves you!” *(Allow kids to respond.)*

What an awesome way to begin our time together! Let’s sing about God’s love.

*(Show the music video.)*

*(Kids stand to sing.)*

## WELCOME AND PRAYER

- ➔ Estimated time: 5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Life Point* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

### **BIBLE STUDY LEADER**

Hello, everyone! I’m glad that you’re at church today. Going to church is a great way to learn more about God and the Bible.

Let’s see what you know about God. I will make a statement about God. If you think the statement

is true, stand and raise your hand. If you think the statement is not true, stay seated and cross your arms. *(Make each of the following statements and lead kids to respond.)*

- There is only one God. *(True; Isaiah 46:9; John 17:3)*
- God’s words are always true. *(True; Proverbs 30:5; John 17:17)*
- God does not keep all of His promises. *(False; Deuteronomy 7:9; 2 Timothy 2:13)*
- God hears you. *(True; 1 Peter 3:12; 1 John 5:14)*

You know a lot about God! No person can ever know everything about God. There is always more to learn!

*(Show Life Point slide.)*

**The Bible helps people know more about God.** Say that with me: **“The Bible helps people know more about God.”**

The Bible teaches that God does wonderful things, and no one is like Him! Read with me Psalm 40:5

*(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)*

*(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)*

### **BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):**

- LORD my God, you have done many things—your wondrous works and your plans for us; none can compare with you. Psalm 40:5 *(CSB)*
- Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee. Psalm 40:52 *(KJV)*
- Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you. Psalm 40:5 *(NIV)*
- You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! Psalm 40:5 *(ESV)*
- Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order. Psalm 40:5 *(NKJV)*

The Bible is God's message about Himself. Reading the Bible helps us hear, know, and obey God. Let's pray. After we pray, we will check in with the True2Life team (*or the Mooseberry kids*).

*God, the Bible teaches us that You are the one true God. Your Words are always true, and You always keep Your promises. Thank You for hearing us when we pray. Thank You for the Bible. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.*

### **TRUE2LIFE DRAMA**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Mooseberry Life Application* video (*optional*)
- ➔ People:
  - Ron (*a church kid who is learning about God*)
  - Dave (*Ron's neighbor who loves baseball*)
- ➔ Props: box of baseball cards
- ➔ Prep: none

*Dave sits center stage, looking at a box of baseball cards. Ron walks in as Dave memorizes stats.*

**Ron:** Hey, Dave! What are you doing?

**Dave:** Hey, Ron! Did you know that Rubio had 269 RBIs and 183 home runs?

**Ron:** He's good! I ...

**Dave:** (*interrupting*) Yes, but Kinderman had 867 RBIs and 334 home runs!

**Ron:** That is impressive, but ...

**Dave:** (*interrupting*) But honestly, neither of them can compare to Noah Wisener.

**Ron:** The "Home Run King!" He was ...

**Dave:** (*interrupting*) Wisener had 1,854 RBIs and 702 home runs! Man, that guy was amazing!

**Ron:** You know a lot about baseball!

**Dave:** I'm trying to memorize as much as I can from these cards. I really want to know these players.

**Ron:** You mean you want to know ABOUT the players. Memorizing facts can't help you actually know the players.

**Dave:** What do you mean?

**Ron:** Well, you can study the cards and learn about a player's career information. That helps you know the kind of player he is, but it doesn't help you know the kind of person he is.

**Dave:** I guess so.

**Ron:** You can't really know someone just by reading information about the person.

**Dave:** Wait a minute! You're always talking about the Bible. You said that you read the Bible to know God. Isn't that the same thing?

**Ron:** I can see how you might think that, but there is a really big difference. Those cards have great facts about the players. You can learn about the number of home runs they've hit or the number of runs they've scored. The Bible does more than just tell about the things God has done. The Bible is actually written BY God and teaches what God is like.

**Dave:** Oh! Yeah, that's a LOT different.

**Ron:** The Bible is God's message about Himself. It helps people hear, know, and obey God.

**Dave:** So you're saying that the Bible helps you know who God is and what He is like?

**Ron:** Exactly!

**Dave:** Hmm, ... interesting.

**Ron:** God loves you, Dave. You should take the time to get to know Him.

**Dave:** Maybe I will.

*(Dave and Ron gather the cards and exit.)*

*(END SCENE)*

## CONNECTION POINT GAME

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Game* slide
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, 6 kids
- ➔ Props: none

### **GAME INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Choose 6 kids.
- Form 2 teams.
- Choose a team to begin.
- Ask 1 of the following questions and lead the team to give 1 answer:
  - What can you learn from a math book?
  - What can you find in a coloring book?
  - What can you find in a music book?
  - What can you find in the Bible?
- Invite the other team to provide a different answer to the same question.
- Alternate play until a team cannot provide a satisfactory answer.
- Keep the game fast-paced, requiring immediate answers from the teams.
- Award a point to the team that was not stumped for an answer.
- Choose a new question and play again.
- Keep a point tally and play as your time allows.
- **Leader note:** Use “What can you find in the Bible?” as the last question.

### **CONNECTION POINT LEADER**

(Show *Connection Point Game* slide.)

I need six quick-thinking kids to play today’s game! Who is ready for a challenge? (Choose six kids. Form two teams.)

Teams, I will ask a question, and you will take turns giving one answer at a time. We will keep taking turns until a team cannot think of an answer. For example, I might say: “What can you do in a gym?” We will go back and forth until a team gets stuck. If your team cannot think of an answer, the other team wins a point.

Do all of you understand how to play? (Answer any questions and play the game.)

I liked the last question! What were some things that our players said they could find in the Bible? (Allow for responses.)

The Bible has words, maps, numbers, chapters, and verses. Some Bibles have drawings and study notes. All of those are good things, but the Bible is much more! The Bible is God’s Word! It helps people know God and how to live.

Let’s sing another worship song. After we sing, we will hear today’s Bible story.

## WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights (optional)
- ➔ Music: “Light in the Darkness” (lead sheet available on DVD-ROM) or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

### **WORSHIP LEADER**

Romans 15:4 says that the words in the Bible are our instructions. The Bible teaches us about God and gives us instructions on how to live a life that honors Him. Let’s worship Him as we sing.

(Show the music video.)

(Lead kids to sit as song ends.)

## BIBLE STORY

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Christ Focus and Bible Story* slides; *Notebook Bible Story* video (optional)
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: Bible, 2 chairs, yarn, binder clip, 2 sheets of paper, marker, tape

**Option 1:** Use the suggested props and tell the following Bible story. Set 2 chairs several feet apart. Tie a piece of yarn between the chairs. Place a binder clip on the yarn. On a sheet of paper write



NOTHING. *On a second paper write EVERYTHING. Tape 1 paper on each chair.*

**Option 2:** *Play the Notebook Bible Story video.*

**Option 3:** *Tell the Optional Bible Story available on the DVD-ROM. This session's optional Bible story: "The Greatest Commandment," Mark 12:28-34.*

### **BIBLE STUDY LEADER**

*(Show Bible Story slide.)*

Part of growing up is learning new things! Some things are easy to learn, while others take a long time. Let's see how much you know!

The sign on this chair says *nothing*. The sign on the other chair says *everything*. I'll name a subject and invite a friend to slide the binder clip along the yarn to show us how much he thinks he knows about the subject. Where will he put the binder clip if he doesn't know anything at all? Where will he put the clip if he knows only a little? *(Allow for responses. Name one of the following subjects and invite a child to slide the binder clip to indicate his knowledge on the subject. Choose a different child for each subject.)*

- Soccer
- Ballet
- Planets
- The Bible
- God

You know a lot of things! Do you think any person could say that they know everything about God? *(Allow for responses.)* No one knows everything about God. Our pastor knows a lot about God, but even he can't know everything! God is too big and too wonderful for any person to know everything!

There is so much to know about God, and it is important that we keep learning about Him our whole lives! How can people know about God? *(Allow for responses.)* The Bible helps people know more about God! Let's hear a Bible story about some people who heard God's Word and learned more about Him.

*(Open Bible to Nehemiah 8.)*

The Israelites gathered in Jerusalem. They asked Ezra, the priest, to bring the book of the Law and read it aloud to them.

Ezra brought out the scroll. He stood on a high wooden platform so that all of the people could see and hear him read God's Word. He read the scroll from early morning until noon. All the people listened carefully as Ezra read.

*(Read Nehemiah 8:5-6.)*

**Ezra opened the book in full view of all the people ... As he opened it, all the people stood up. Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and with their hands uplifted all the people said, "Amen, Amen!" Then they knelt low and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.**

The temple leaders explained God's Word to the people and helped them understand it. The people realized their sin and cried as they heard Ezra read from the scroll.

Nehemiah, Ezra, and the temple leaders tried to quiet the people. They told the people that it was a special day and not to be sad. They encouraged the people to eat and to share food with one another

*(Read Nehemiah 8:12.)*

**Then all the people began to eat and drink, send portions, and have a great celebration, because they had understood the words that were explained to them.**

The people were so happy to hear God's Word and understand it! They worshiped God and celebrated because of all they had heard.

*(Close Bible.)*

Hearing God's Word helped the people know more about God and how He wanted them to live. They rejoiced and were glad because they had understood His Word.

*(Show Christ Focus slide.)*

The Bible helps us know the right things to do. We do wrong things a lot, but when we know and love Jesus, He helps us say no to sin. Jesus died to rescue us from sin.

The Bible is God's message to people, and the words of the Bible tell us what God wants us to know. The Bible teaches us what is right and corrects us when we do wrong. We can read the Bible to learn more about God and how He wants us to live. The Bible also tells us what God is like, how He cares for people, and His plan to send Jesus.

Do you want to know God and learn more about Him? Read your Bible! The Bible is God's message to you!

### **WORSHIP SONG AND OFFERING**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: mics for singers, lights (*optional*)
- ➔ Music: Use a favorite song or download a worship song of your choice.
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

#### **WORSHIP LEADER**

There are so many awesome things to learn and know about God! I'm thankful that the Bible teaches us to know Him more. Let's pray and ask God to help us learn more and more about Him.

*God, You are awesome, and we love You! There are so many things to learn about You. Please help us know You more. Teach us Your Word and help us understand it. Lead us to obey all Your commands. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.*

#### *Optional Giving Segment:*

It's time to give an offering. Some of the money people give at church helps others know more about God. If you would like to give an offering today, ...

*(Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After collecting the offering, guide kids to stand for the worship song.)*

### **CONNECTION POINT BIBLE VERSE**

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, all kids
- ➔ Props: buzzer or whistle, timer

#### **ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:**

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Say the verse and lead kids to repeat it after you.*
- *Sound the buzzer and lead kids to quickly find partners. (Groups of 3 are OK.)*
- *Explain that you will give an instruction, and partners will have 20 seconds to respond.*
- *Sound the buzzer at the end of 20 seconds.*
- *Lead kids to quickly find new partners, say together the Bible verse, and wait for you to give an instruction.*
- *Use the following instructions:*
  - *Tell your partner something you know about God.*
  - *Tell your partner something you want to know about God.*
  - *Tell your partner about something amazing that God has done.*
  - *Tell your partner a word that describes God.*
- *Play as time allows. (It is OK to reuse instructions!)*
- *End your time by leading the group to say together Psalm 40:5.*
- **Leader note:** *Kids may get excited and forget to say the Bible verse with their new partners. Remind kids that they must say the verse with each new partner.*

#### **BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):**

- LORD my God, you have done many things—your wondrous works and your plans for us; none can compare with you. Psalms 40:5 (CSB)
- Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee. Psalm 40:52 (KJV)
- Many, LORD my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you. Psalm 40:5 (NIV)
- You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! Psalm 40:5 (ESV)
- Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order. Psalm 40:5 (NKJV)

**CONNECTION POINT LEADER**

Today's Bible verse tells us that there is no one like God! Say aloud with me Psalm 40:5.

*(Show Bible Verse slide—your preferred version.)*

*(Lead kids to read your preferred version.)*

There is only one God, and no one is like Him. He created all things, and His power is greater than we can even imagine. God is amazing!

*(Lead the activity.)*

**CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS**

- ➔ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Missions* and *Connect to Missions* slides; “North African Missions” missions video
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader
- ➔ Props: none

**CONNECTION POINT LEADER**

*(Show Connection Point Missions slide.)*

Not many Christians live in North Africa and the Middle East. In a world with few believers, it is important to continue praying for the people in the area. Let's hear more about missions in North Africa.

*(Show the missions video: “North African Missions.”)*

*(Show Connect to Missions slide.)*

Church leaders and others want to help people in North Africa learn more about Jesus and trust Him as their Savior. One church has started a school in North Africa. The church leaders hope that the school will give them opportunities to teach the kids about Jesus and plant new churches.

Let's pray that the people in North Africa will hear the gospel and understand that God loves them.

*(Invite a child to lead the group to pray. If no one volunteers, voice a prayer yourself.)*

*God, we pray for the people who live in North Africa. We pray that they will hear the gospel and respond. We also pray that the new school gives church leaders an opportunity to tell the children about Jesus and start new churches. Please help people*

*hear Your Word and know You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.*

**REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS**

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Real Life Connections*, *Real Life Questions*, and *Life Point* slides; microphone to take to individuals in group *(optional)*
- ➔ People: Bible Study Leader
- ➔ Props: none

*Lead a conversation with your kids about today's Bible story and Life Point. Show the Real Life Questions slides and discuss each question.*

**BIBLE STUDY LEADER**

*(Show Real Life Questions slides.)*

God gave us the Bible—His message to us about Himself! There are so many things we can learn from reading the Bible. Let's talk about some things that you know about God and the Bible.

- Who helps you read and understand the Bible?
- What can you do when you don't understand the Bible?
- Why do you think people need to know more about God?
- How can people know God and learn more about Him?

*(Show Life Point slide.)*

**The Bible helps people know more about God.** Say that with me: **“The Bible helps people know more about God.”**

God is so good to give us parents and church leaders to help us understand the Bible. The Bible teaches us to know God and obey Him. I pray that you will spend time reading the Bible and learning more about God!

Thanks for coming to church today. Bring a friend with you next time, and together we'll learn more about God.

**Leader note:** *If you plan to utilize the post-session Huddle Up, dismiss kids to their small groups.*