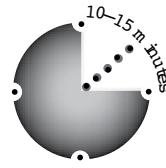


# Skill Centers



## Grades 1–3 Introductory Meeting

Note: Prior to the meeting, mail each family a copy of “Parent Letter” (CD Item B). Plan to use the “Newsletter Article” and “Logos” (CD Items D and E) as you prepare for the Introductory Meeting. To make the introductory meeting more interesting, consider decorating using a vacation theme that includes visiting parks and camping along a river.

### A Family Welcome

Play the music as the guests arrive. Watch for children who may arrive without their parents and group them with leaders or other families.

Introduce yourself to the guests as they enter. Give them pens and name tags to fill out and alternate giving a teeter-totter or a river wave name tag to each child. Give blank name tags to the adults. Show the gameboards, and explain that throughout the upcoming meetings, the children will enjoy activities based on a vacation theme, which includes visiting parks and going camping along a river.

Turn off the CD player and invite the guests to be seated. Say: “Welcome to Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills! We have prayed and prepared for this meeting and are encouraged to see you. We’re here to support you as you teach your children the truth of God’s Word. Please pray for us as we lead the children!”

Give each parent a “Parent Sign-Up Sheet” and review the ways parents can help with the Bible skills meetings. Explain that you will collect their sheets at the end of the meeting today.

### Understanding Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills

Give each person a copy of the “Skill Check List.” Say: “Your child will have the opportunity to attend 36 meetings. During that time, the children will learn 8 memory verses and 2 bonus verses. They also will learn the titles and the references for 10 Key Passages such as The Parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37. The children will learn about Bible books, divisions, history, content, people in the Bible, and how to apply Bible truths to everyday life. You may keep your copy of the check list. We encourage you to track your child’s progression in Bible skills.”

### Explain Skill Centers

Address the children by saying: “When you arrive, you will choose to play games or activities as time allows. The centers will be based on skills you have already learned. Today you and your families may participate in two

### A Family Welcome

- Provide a CD player and a CD with instrumental praise music.
- Display “Let’s Play! Gameboard,” “River Run Gameboard,” and “River Run Canoes” (Pack Items 1 and 2a-b) for children to see as they enter.
- Provide “Name Tags” (CD Item 12) and pens.
- Provide a “Parent Sign-Up Sheet” (CD Item A) for each parent.

Teaching Tip: Ask each leader to wear a name tag. Encourage the leaders to introduce themselves to the guests they do not know.

### Understanding Bible Skills, Drills, and Thrills

- Provide “Skill Check List” (CD Item 1) and a pencil for each parent and child.

### Bible Book Train

- Supply 66 paper or foam cups. Save the cups for future uses.
- Provide activity page 5 and a pencil for each child.

### Bible Division Line Up

- Print the title of each Bible division from "Bible Skill Labels" (CD Item 10) and affix each title to a separate jumbo craft stick. Place the craft sticks face up in a line on the floor. Place 66 plain jumbo craft sticks in a paper bag near the division sticks. Make sure the "Books of the Bible Poster" (Pack Item 3) is displayed nearby.

Note: Keep the "Books of the Bible Poster" (Pack Item 3) displayed in the room throughout the cycle.

### Play a Gathering Game: Creation Toss

- Provide a ball that is soft and easy to catch.

Teaching Tip: As you form teams for games and activities, make sure no child is left standing alone. Be careful to include everyone.

Teaching Tip: Choose categories to which the children can easily relate such as animals. When the children begin to struggle for an answer, change categories.

centers." Explain the two centers and give opportunity for the participants to complete the activities. If you have a large group, lead the participants to form two groups according to the drawings on the children's name tags, Teeter-Totters and River Waves, and take turns at the two centers as time allows.

### Bible Book Train

Give each child an activity page and call attention to "How Many?" Tell the children to count the number of books in the Old Testament and make a train of cups by placing the same number of cups as books in a row. Suggest they may wind the train or make it straight. Ask the parents to help the kids keep count. Then lead the group to count the New Testament books and make a train. Restack the cups if another team will be playing.

### Bible Division Line Up

Refer to the "Books of the Bible Poster" and invite the participants to count the number of books in each division and place the same number of craft sticks below that division. Let the parents check the children's work. If time allows, let the parents play and the children check their parents' work. Place the blank craft sticks back in the container if another team will be playing.

### Introduce the Hip-Lip Signal

As time ends for the Skill Centers, go to each child, call her by name, and invite her and her family to be seated. Address the children with teeter-totters on their name tags first. Draw a line under the name of every other child with a teeter-totter. Repeat the process for those with the river waves.

Place one hand on your hip and the index finger of your opposite hand to your lips and say: "Boys and girls, what I am doing now is called hip-lip. This is your signal to be quiet and listen. There will be time during Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills meetings for you to talk with friends; there will be time for you to run and play; and there will also be a time for you to listen. When you see any leader do this (hand on the hip, index finger at the lips) or if any leader says, 'hip-lip,' you will know to stop talking and stand in this position. Let's try it together: 'Hip-lip.'" Thank the children for learning the listening signal so quickly.

### Play a Gathering Game: Creation Toss

Say: "Group Skills time begins with a gathering game. This game usually gives you an idea of what you will be learning in the meeting. Next week you will learn about God's amazing creation. Today the game is Creation Toss." Explain that you will name a category and toss the ball to a player. The player will name something that belongs in that category and toss the ball back to the leader. The game continues in the same category until the leader names another category.

Name a category such as flowers, birds, or insects and toss the ball. Lead the children and their families to play the game for several minutes.

## Be Prepared for Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills

Give each child an activity page and a pencil. Say: "Your leaders will pray for you and prepare for Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills each week. You can get ready as well! Look at the pictures on the activity page. Circle the pictures of the ways you can be ready for a great meeting!"

Ask: "Did anyone circle the first picture?" Continue: "In the first picture, a boy is holding his Bible. Bringing your Bible to each meeting is important. If anyone here does not have a Bible, please tell one of the leaders before the meeting ends. Notice there is a clock in the picture that has no hands. Make the clock show the time that the Bible skills meetings begin." Ask parents to help the children record the beginning time on their clocks.

Invite a volunteer to tell what the child is doing in the next picture. Ask if anyone circled that picture. Lead the children to talk about why it is important to raise their hands when they have something to say during Group Skills.

Ask: "Did anyone circle the picture of a child playing a game? When you come to the meetings ready to play the games, you will develop better Bible skills.

Say: "The last picture reminds you to follow the hip-lip signal. Raise your hand if you can tell what the hip-lip signal means." Call on a child by name and allow her to answer.

## Introduce the Bible Story

Open your Bible so the children can see the contents page. Say: "Open your Bible to the page that lists the books of the Bible. The contents page will help you locate a book of the Bible." Explain that on this page they can see the order of the books and the page numbers where the books are found.

Encourage the children to turn to the Book of Genesis, reminding them that Genesis is the first book in the Bible. Say: "Genesis means beginning. God chose to tell about the beginning of the world. Before God created you, He created the beautiful world and all that is in it so you would have everything you need to live. When God created you, He created you for a purpose!"

Form four groups: Teeter-Totters with underlined names, Teeter-Totters without underlined names, River Waves with underlined names, and River Waves without underlined names. Give each group an envelope. Say: "When I say, 'Go,' look in your envelopes and put the words in the correct order. You will discover what God thought about His creation! When your team has the correct order, do the hip-lip signal." Encourage parents to help. When all of the groups are standing, ask them to recite the sentence together. Say: "Turn to a friend and say: 'And God saw that it was good!'" Instruct everyone to sit down.

Say: "During the Creation Toss game, you named many of God's creations. Next week you will learn more about God's creation."

## Be Prepared for Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills

- Provide activity page 6 and a pencil for each child.

Teaching Tip: Look for the opportunity to use the hip-lip signal as you guide the children to respond properly. Praise them when they are listening.

## Introduce the Bible Story

- Gather 4 envelopes and 28 index cards.
- Print each of these words on a separate index card: And God saw that it was good. Place the cards in an envelope. Repeat for each envelope.

### Introduce the Memory Verse

- Provide a white board or poster board. Print the reference Genesis 1:31 in large letters.

### Introduce the Memory Verse

Display the reference Genesis 1:31. Say: "This is a Bible verse reference. With so many verses in the Bible, you would not be able to easily find what you were looking for if you did not have reference numbers to follow. Open your Bible to the first page of the Book of Genesis. Place your finger on the large number one. That is the chapter number." Point to the chapter number in the reference on the board and tell the children the chapter number is listed first.

Say: "Look for the smaller numbers in your Bible. The smaller number is the number of the verse. Place your finger on the first small number on your page." Point to the number 31 on the board and tell the children the second number in a reference is the verse number.

Guide the children to look for verse 31. Say: "Run your finger along the sentences in the verses in the Bible and look for the numbers. When you reach number 31, stop. Leave your finger on the number." Assist children as needed.

Call on a parent to read Genesis 1:31. Ask the children to follow along. Explain that each week the children will do activities to help them learn a memory verse. Next week they will spend time memorizing Genesis 1:31. Encourage the children to read this verse every day this week to begin memorizing it.

### Pray

Lead in a prayer thanking God for His amazing creation and asking God to help the children remember that He created them for a purpose.

### Introduce the First Division of the Old Testament

- Provide each child with "Books of the Bible" from page 77 of the activity book.
- Provide a CD player and a song of the books of the Old Testament.

### Introduce the First Division of the Old Testament

Give each child a "Books of the Bible" page. Explain that the Bible has 66 books. There are 2 main divisions in the Bible: the Old Testament, which contains 39 books, and the New Testament, which contains 27 books. Each testament is divided into five smaller divisions. The books in each division have something in common with each other. In Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills the children will learn the books in each division.

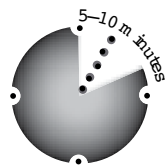
Open your Bible to the Book of Genesis. Hold it up and say: "The first five books of the Bible are called the books of Law. Look at your "Books of the Bible" page and follow along as I read the names. Parents, please place your index fingers at each book title as you hear me say it." Recite each of the five books of the Law twice. Explain that you will name the books of the Law again and this time you want the children to repeat the names after you. Recite each book name clearly and slowly and allow the children to repeat it. If you hear the children struggle with the pronunciation of any of the names, recite it until it is repeated correctly.

Ask the children to listen to the song of the books of the Old Testament. Explain that they will learn this song during the meetings.

## Introduce Skill Options

Explain that each week the meeting begins with Skill Centers. After Skill Centers, the children will go to Group Skills and then move to Skill Options. Skill Options include Bible Skills, Recreation, Crafts, and Service. Say: "Each option includes games and activities that will help you learn and apply Bible skills. Next week you will choose one Skill Option; tonight you will get to see the kinds of activities each option has to offer."

Ask the guests to form four groups as they did earlier. Say: "Your group leader has a schedule to follow. You will have seven minutes in each option. When you hear the bell, move to the next option. At the end of Skill Option time, gather back here." Choose a parent to be the leader of each group and give each leader a section of the "Skill Option Schedule."



## Family Bible Skills to Go

Invite the children to talk with their families about the activities they liked best. Then ask volunteers to share with the group what they liked.

- Call attention to the "Publicity Poster" and remind the group when and where they will meet. Give each parent an "Enrollment Form" and pencil and invite families to enroll their children. Ask each parent to complete the "Parent Sign-Up Sheet" and leave it with you.

Thank the families for attending and tell the children you look forward to seeing them next week. Close in prayer.

## Introduce Skill Options

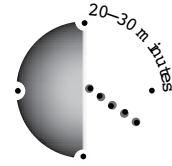
- Prepare "Skill Option Schedule" (CD Item 13).
- Provide a bell.

## Family Bible Skills to Go

- Prepare and display the "Publicity Poster" (Pack Item 4).
- Prepare an "Enrollment Form" (CD Item F) and a pencil for each child.

Note: Plan to contact parents who signed up on the "Parent Sign-Up Sheet." Schedule times or provide supplies as needed.

# Bible Skills



## Bible Puzzlemania

- Prepare "Puzzlemania" (CD Item 14). Group the puzzle pieces into Old Testament pieces (blue pieces) and New Testament pieces (green pieces).
- Display the "Books of the Bible Poster" (Pack Item 3).

Note: Remember to have someone ring a bell after seven minutes.

## Bible Puzzlemania

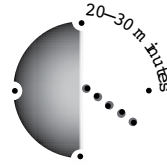
Welcome the families to the Bible Skills Option and say: "In the Bible Skills Option, you will play games and do activities to help you know how to use your Bible. You will learn Bible verses and Key Passages as well as the books of the Bible. While you are learning to use your Bible, you will have fun, too. Today's activity will help you become familiar with the books of the Bible."

Call attention to the "Books of the Bible Poster" and the puzzle pieces. Arrange the kids into two groups; suggest each parent join her child's group. Give one group the Old Testament puzzle pieces (blue pieces) and the other group the New Testament puzzle pieces (green pieces). Invite the children to put the puzzle pieces together by referring to the "Books of the Bible Poster." Ask the parents to assist as needed but to allow the children to do as much of the puzzle as possible. When the puzzles are complete, refer to the poster as you name each book in order, one-by-one, with the children repeating each book after you.

If time allows, let the groups switch puzzles, separate the pieces, and reassemble the puzzles.

When the bell sounds, invite the parent leader to take the group to the next skill option or Family Bible Skills to Go. Collect the cards for the next group.

# Recreation



## Memory Verse Walk

Welcome the families to the Recreation Option and say: "Each week in Recreation you will play active games that will help you learn and remember Bible verses and skills or review a Bible truth from the Bible story.

Recreation is a great way to use all that energy you have while learning at the same time! Today you are going on a Memory Verse Walk."

Call attention to the colored paper on the floor and instruct each child to stand on one colored piece of paper. Say: "I will play the books of the Old Testament song. When you hear the music, walk around the circle, stepping from one colored paper to the next. When the music stops, you must stop. One of the parents will pull a colored piece of paper out of the sack. Those standing on the same color paper pulled will name something God created. If a parent chooses an orange piece of paper, you will echo the parents as they read Genesis 1:31 aloud, phrase-by-phrase."

Lead the group to echo you as you read the verse, phrase-by-phrase, and then start the CD. Lead the children to play as time allows.

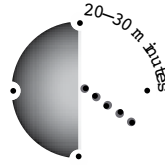
When the bell sounds, thank everyone for coming. Ask the parent leader to take the group to the next Skill Option or Family Bible Skills to Go.

## Memory Verse Walk

- Provide a CD player and a song of the books of the Old Testament."
- Gather four different colors of construction paper, three sheets of each color; one sheet of orange construction paper; and one paper sack.
- Form a circle on the floor with the papers using a color pattern such as yellow, green, blue, red, yellow, green, blue, red and so forth.
- Place small pieces of each color of paper in the sack. Add several pieces of orange paper.
- Write the verse words and reference for Genesis 1:31 on a large sheet of paper. Draw a slash line between the phrases. Display the paper.

Note: Remember to have someone ring a bell after seven minutes.

# Crafts



## Remember Magnet

- Prepare the smaller logo, teeter-totter picture, and river wave picture from an "Invitation/Remember Logo" (CD Item 15) for each child to have one.
- Provide a two-inch adhesive-backed magnet strip for each child, glue, and markers or crayons.
- Provide a CD player and a CD with the books of the Old Testament and books of the New Testament."
- Provide a short piece of yarn to tie around each child's finger.

Teaching Tip: Remember you only have seven minutes for each group for this meeting. Plan ahead! Prepare sets of magnet supplies in zip-lock plastic bags so you are ready when each group arrives. Each set should include a logo, teeter-totter picture, river wave picture, magnetic strip, and a piece of yarn.

Note: Remember to have someone ring a bell after seven minutes.

## Remember Magnet

Welcome the families to the Crafts Option. Invite them to sit at the tables. Say: "The Crafts Option is designed for those who enjoy being artistic and learn best by being creative. Each craft focuses on Bible skills and knowledge. Today is a little different. Today you will make a magnet for your refrigerator to help you remember to get ready for Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills! Listen to the songs as you work to help you become more familiar with the books of the Bible."

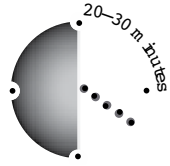
Give each child the magnet supplies and guide him to print the time and day of the Bible skills meetings on the logo. If you used the black and white logo, allow him to color it. Let each child choose a teeter-totter or river wave card on which to glue his logo. Lead him to attach his magnet strip to the back of his logo. Invite the parents to assist as needed. As the children work, encourage them to listen to the names of the books of the Bible.

Before the children leave, talk about the ways they can prepare for Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills that were pictured on the activity page. Then ask each parent to tie a small piece of yarn around her child's index finger. Explain that when they look at the strings on their fingers, they can recall how they can prepare for the next meeting. Challenge the boys and girls to remember to place their magnets on their refrigerators when they get home.

When the bell rings, invite the parent leader to take the group to the next skill option or Family Bible Skills to Go.



# Service



## Invitation Magnets

Welcome the families to the Service Option. Invite them to be seated. Say: "The Service Option is for those children who love to do things for other people. Activities will include learning, planning, and participating in family, church, and community service projects that will help the children apply what they have learned. Children will either make something to give away, discover something they can do for others, or learn a new skill that they can use to serve others. One of the greatest services they can do for others is to help others know about God's plan for their lives. Today, they will make something to give away."

Remind the group that throughout the upcoming meetings, the children will enjoy activities based on a vacation theme, which includes going places such as parks and riverside camps. Give the children the invitation supplies and say: "Learning is always more fun when you are with your friends. You can make road-map invitations to invite more friends to come with you to Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills." Remind the group of the meeting time and day. Ask parents to help children fill in the blanks on the logos as needed. Then show the children how to fold the map piece to form a card and glue the logo on the inside. As the children work, tell them that when they and their friends attend the meetings, they can learn more about God's plan of salvation for everyone.

Talk with the children about whom they might invite to Bible Skills, Drills & Thrills. Suggest to the parents that they offer a ride for friends when possible. Challenge the children to give their invitations away and to bring a friend to the next meeting.

Listen for the bell to know when to dismiss the group to the next skill option or Family Bible Skills to Go.

## Invitation Magnet

- Prepare the larger invitation logo from an "Invitation/Remember Logo" (CD Item 15) for each child to have one.
- Obtain old road maps and cut them into 8-by-10-inch rectangular shapes. Provide a map piece for each child.
- Provide glue and pencils.

Teaching Tip: Since you only have seven minutes for each group for this meeting, prepare a set of supplies for each child. For each set, place these items in a zip-lock plastic bag: an invitation logo, a rectangular map piece, glue, and a pencil

Note: Remember to have someone ring a bell after seven minutes.

# Introductory Meeting

## How Many?

Work as a team and add the number of books together to see how many books are in each testament of the Bible!

### Books of the Old Testament

#### Law

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

#### Old Testament History

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
- 1 Chronicles
- 2 Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Ester

#### Poetry

- Job
- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon

#### Major Prophets

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Theodotus

#### Minor Prophets

- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zachariah
- Malachi

Total

### Books of the New Testament

#### Gospels

- Matthew
- Mark
- Luke
- John

#### New Testament History

- Acts

#### Paul's Letters

- Romans
- 1 Corinthians
- 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 Thessalonians
- 2 Thessalonians
- 1 Timothy
- 2 Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon

#### General Letters

- Hebrews
- James
- 1 Peter
- 2 Peter
- 1 John
- 2 John
- 3 John
- Jude

#### Prophecy

- Revelation

Total

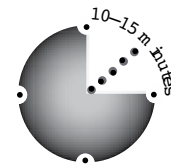


# YES I CAN!

Circle the pictures of the ways you can be ready for Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills!



# Skill Centers



**Bible Passage:**

Psalm 104:24;

1 Timothy 4:4;

Genesis 1

Verse: Genesis 1:31

Key Passage: None

Bible Story: The Good

Things from God

**Levels of Biblical Learning Statements:**

Grades 1–2: I can feel a sense of wonder as I enjoy God's creation.

Grade 3: I can begin to understand what God is like by discovering the things He created.

**Meeting Goals:**

Locate, read, and quote Genesis 1:31.

Say and locate the names of the books of Law.

**Skill Check**

- Provide "Skill Check List" (CD Item 1) and a pencil for each child.

**Leaf Out**

- Prepare "Leaf Patterns" (CD Item 16).
- Provide markers, masking tape, and a Bible.
- Stand a two-foot bare branch in a can of sand.
- For younger children, print the books of Law from "Bible Skill Labels" (CD Item 10).

**It's Very Good!**

- Attach a large sheet of paper to the wall.
- Provide crayons.
- Print Genesis 1:31 from "Bible Verse Labels" (CD Items 11 a-b), affix it to a bookmark, and place it in a Bible.

**Pick a Flower**

- Prepare "Flower Shapes" (CD Item 17).
- Place bookmarks in Bible to mark the books of Law.

**Skill Check**

**Leaf Out**

Invite the children to find the first five Old Testament books on the contents page of their Bibles. Tell them these are the books of Law. Ask them to point to each book as you or a volunteer pronounce the first five book names. Guide the children to write each book name on a leaf shape. Younger children can affix the "Bible Skill Labels" to the leaves. Instruct the children to attach their leaves to the branch. Say the book names several times.

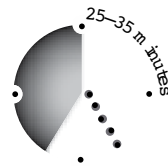
**It's Very Good!**

Encourage the kids to think of things only God can make (flowers, sun, stars, animals, people, rain) and to draw pictures of them on the chart paper to create a mural. After each child draws an item, guide him to turn to the marker in the Bible and read (or repeat after you) the memory verse. Replace the marker for the next reading.

**Pick a Flower**

Invite each child to pick a flower from the vase and turn to the bookmarks in one of the Bibles provided until she finds the Bible book written on her flower. Remind the boys and girls to return the flowers to the vase for another person to use. Children may pick the flowers several times, trying to find the Bible books faster and faster. They may aim at opening the Bible to the correct bookmark on the first try. Lead the children to explore each book by finding the first page and last page to see how thick the book is and how many chapters it has.

# Group Skills



## Do a Gathering Activity

Blow a whistle or ring a bell to call the group to attention. Give the hip-lip signal. Tell the children to take a seat in the Group Skills area when they hear their names. Call the children, one by one, by inserting their names into a paraphrase of the Bible verse. For example, say: "God saw Kim that He had made and she was very good."

When all children are seated say: "God made each one of you and He has a plan for each of you. Today you will learn from the Bible about the good things God has made."

## Tell the Bible Story

Invite each child to open his Bible to Genesis 1:1. Call on a volunteer to read the verse. Lead the group to read the verse in unison. Ask: "In what time frame does the Bible begin? (the beginning) What happened in the beginning?" (God created the heaven and earth.) Explain that Genesis 1 tells how God created the heaven and earth in six days. Challenge the children to listen to the Bible story to discover what God created on each day.

Tell the Bible story. Lay the "Days of Creation Sheets" on the floor before the group according to the instructions in parentheses.

### The Good Things from God

There was nothing. There was no light. There was no noise. There was just darkness and empty space. But God was there!

(Lay down the Day 1 sheet.) God said, "Let there be light." There was light and God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness and He called the light day and He called the darkness night. That was the first day of creation.

(Lay down the Day 2 sheet.) God said, "Let there be a heaven between the waters." The waters divided and the sky was formed. God saw that the sky was good. That was the second day of creation.

(Lay down the Day 3 sheet.) God said, "Let the water be gathered together in one place and let dry land appear." God called the dry land earth and the gathered water seas. God spoke again and plants appeared on the land. Small plants, herbs, and great trees began to grow. Every plant had a seed. God saw that the earth, the seas, and the plants were good. That was the third day of creation.

(Lay down the Day 4 sheet.) God said, "Let there be lights in the sky." God made two great lights: the sun to rule the day and the moon to rule the

Teaching Tip: Ask your church to purchase a Bible for each child and a few extras to use in your meeting room or enlist an adult Sunday School department to purchase Bibles. See page 13 of Administration if you choose to provide Children's Bible Drill Bibles.

## Do a Gathering Activity

- Provide a whistle or a bell.

Teaching Tip: The hip-lip signal introduced in Meeting 1 works well to get the children's attention in large or small groups. In addition to the hip-lip signal, you may find it helpful to adopt one way to gain the attention of the children. You may ring a bell, blow a whistle, or turn off and on the lights. However you use these signals, make sure the kids understand what you expect them to do. Be consistent in using the signals.

## Tell the Bible Story

- Print "Days of Creation Sheets" (CD Item 18). Plan to use the sheets again in Family Bible Skills to Go.

night. He placed the stars in the heavens. God made those lights to provide light for the earth and to provide for days and seasons. God saw that the sun, moon, and stars were good. That was the fourth day of creation.

(Lay down the Day 5 sheet.) God said, "Let creatures live in the waters and let birds fly in the air." Then it happened just as God said. Big whales and tiny minnows and every kind of bird appeared. God saw that all those things were good. That was the fifth day of creation.

(Lay down the Day 6 sheet.) God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures: livestock, crawling things, and wild animals." God saw that the animals were good. Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image." God made a man and a woman in His image. God blessed them and told them to multiply and fill the earth, to rule over the earth, and to take care of it. God told them everything He had created was for their use. God saw that everything He had made was very good. That was the sixth day of creation.

based on Genesis 1

### Review the Bible Story

Review the Bible Story

- Provide markers or crayons and Bibles.

Form six groups. Give each group one of the "Days of Creation Sheets."

Instruct each group to work together to draw a picture on the back of its sheet, illustrating the things created on that day. Remember, a group can be just one person.

When the pictures are completed, lay them randomly on the floor. Invite a volunteer to place them in the correct order of creation. Ask the other children to make any changes they think are needed. Turn the pictures over to check the order. Ask: "Which things did God consider good?" (everything He created) Point out the order of God's creation. He did not make plants until there was soil and light to make them grow. He did not make fish until there were seas for them to live in. He did not make animals until there was water and plants for food.

Remind children how to read the address of a verse. The book name is given first, then the chapter number, and then the verse number(s). Guide half of the children to open their Bibles to Psalm 104:24 and the other half of the children to open their Bibles to 1 Timothy 4:4. Explain that Psalms is in the middle of the Bible and 1 Timothy is in the New Testament toward the end of the Bible. Suggest children may use the table of contents to help them locate their references. Older children and workers may help younger children locate the reference. Ask a volunteer to read Psalm 104:24. Ask the children to recall words or phrases from the verse that tell about God's creation. Ask another volunteer to read 1 Timothy 4:4. Ask: "How does that verse describe God's creation?" (It is good.)

Learn the Memory Verse

- Provide Genesis 1:31 from "Bible Verse Cards" (CD
  - Item 5a HCSB
  - Item 5b KJV).

### Learn the Memory Verse

Teaching Tip: If you have a large group, write the words for Genesis 1:31 on a large sheet of paper.

Tell the children to open their Bibles to Genesis 1:31 and stand when they have their index fingers on the verse. Call on several volunteers to read the verse. Suggest saying the reference before and after reading the verse.

Ask: "To which day of creation does this verse refer? (sixth) What did

God create on the sixth day? (animals and people) What kinds of animals did God create?" (livestock, crawling animals, and wild animals)

Display the Bible verse card. Lead the children to read the verse in unison. Give these instructions: "When I touch someone on the back, he should jump up and name a specific type of animal God created on the sixth day. Everyone will respond by reading Genesis 1:31 from the card. There are many animals so no one is to repeat an animal name."

Continue the game until every child has had a turn. Invite the children to repeat the verse from memory.

### Pray

Remind the children that God gave all the good things He had created to the first man and woman to care for and use. Invite the children to pray sentence prayers by completing this sentence with something only God can make: "Thank you God for. . . ." Close the prayer time by saying: "Amen."

### Apply Bible Truths

Give each child an activity page and a pencil. Tell the children everything they enjoy is a gift from God. Refer the children to "Every Good Gift Comes from God" on the activity page. Follow the sequence of the loaf of bread. Guide the children to draw lines to sequence the making of a wool sweater. (Answers: wool sweater/ clothing store/ factory/ yarn/ sheep with the farmer/ grass, sun and rain/ God.)

Display the box of cereal and cotton shirt. Ask the children to verbally trace each one back to God. (Cereal: bought at the store that purchased it from the cereal company who made it from grain purchased from the farmer who grew the grain in his field with the help of the soil, sun, and rain provided by God. Cotton shirt: bought from the store that purchased it from the factory that made it from cotton material which was woven from cotton which came from cotton plants grown by a farmer with the help of soil, sun, and rain provided by God)

### Learn the Books of Law

Display the cards of the five books of Law. Lead the children to say each of the book titles. Help them pronounce the names correctly. Younger children may need to say each book several times. Explain that those are the first five books in the Old Testament and they are called the books of Law.

Guide each child to find the Book of Genesis in his Bible. Ask kids to open their Bibles to the front because Genesis is the first book. Non-readers can match the book name at the top of the page to the Bible book card. Tell the kids that Genesis means beginnings. Ask them to locate the first three words in the Bible. (in the beginning)

Instruct the children to turn several pages at a time until they come to the Book of Exodus, to turn more pages to find Leviticus, and then more pages to find Numbers and Deuteronomy. Lay the cards in order on the floor. Tell the kids that you will touch someone on the back who will stand

### Apply Bible Truths

- Provide activity page 7 and a pencil for each child.
- Provide a cotton shirt and a box of cereal.

Variation: Write each step for tracing the cotton shirt and cereal back to God on a small card. Tape the cards in random order on the floor. Provide a long piece of yarn or rope. Guide the children to lay the end of the piece of yarn or rope on the item and then lay it in order from card to card.

### Learn the Books of the Law

- Provide the cards for Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy from "Books of the Bible Cards" (CD Item 3). Save the cards used during the Bible Skills Option.

### Teaching Tip:

- Genesis - JEN ih siss
- Exodus - EK suh duhs
- Leviticus - lih VIT ih kuhs
- Numbers - NUHM buhrz
- Deuteronomy - DOO tuh RAHN uh mih

and say: "Genesis." The second person you touch will stand and say, "Exodus," and so on until all five books have been named. The sixth person will begin again with "Genesis" and so on until the five books of Law have been repeated several times.

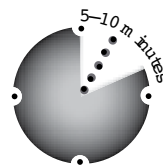
Place the cards in visible spots around the room. Invite the kids to stand and move to the correct card as you read each description.

- The fifth book in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy)
- The book that may make you think of counting (Numbers)
- The book whose name means beginnings (Genesis)
- The second book in the Old Testament (Exodus)
- The third book in the Bible (Leviticus)
- The book that tells the story of creation (Genesis)

Ask: "What are the first five books in your Bible?" (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) Invite each child to turn to the back of her Bible to discover the name of the last book in the Bible. (Revelation) Guide the children to hold their Bibles between both hands in their laps with the spine down. Tell them to open the Bibles to the middle to discover the book in the middle of the Bible. (Psalms) Explain that pages of helps in the front or back of the Bible can keep Psalms from being in the exact middle. Let the children practice finding Genesis, Revelation, and Psalms.

#### Choose Skill Options

Describe the Skill Options you are offering. Guide each child to choose one activity. Lead the children to move to their work areas when you give the signal. Plan to have no more than six children in each activity.



#### Family Bible Skills to Go

- Provide the "Days of Creation Sheets" (CD Item 18) from Group Skills.

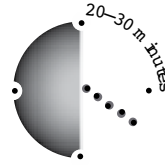
#### Family Bible Skills to Go

Signal that it is time for the kids to move back to the Group Skills area. Welcome parents to the group. Explain that the kids have learned about the good things created by God. Distribute the "Days of Creation Sheets" and ask six children to stand and hold up the pictures. Invite the rest of the group to put the pictures in the correct order. Turn the sheets over to check the work. The children may want to challenge the parents to put the pictures in order to recall the days of creation.

Lead in prayer, thanking God for His good gifts. Be sure to thank Him for making each person with a wonderful purpose.



# Bible Skills



## Beat the Clock!

This activity will reinforce the memorization of the five books of Law and teach the children to find those five books quickly.

Lay the cards on the table or floor. Invite a child to put them in the correct order. Invite the rest of the group to help by giving instructions. Guide the children to open their Bibles to the contents page and locate the first five books of the Old Testament to check the order. Ask each child to say the five books. Use the pronunciation guide in the margin to correct any errors in pronunciation. Add interest by saying the syllables of each Bible book name slowly, slapping your legs on the emphasized syllables (the ones printed in capital letters) and clapping your hands on the other syllables.

Show the stopwatch. Tell the kids you will call the name of a book of Law. When you say, "Start," they are to open their Bibles to any page in that book, place a finger on the book name at the top of the page, and look at you. Remind the kids that these are the first five books in the Bible so they will open their Bibles to the front. Call one of the books and start the stopwatch when you say, "Start." Stop the watch when the last child finds the book. Tell the children how long it took for everyone to find the book. Try again and see if they can beat the clock by improving the group time. Follow this procedure with all five books.

Ask if any child would like to try beating the group clock. Let one child call the books and say, "Start," and another child keep the time while the challenger tries to find each book in less time than the group.

Challenge the group to learn the book before and book after each book of Law. Lay one of the cards on the table. Call on a volunteer to say the book before that book, the book printed on the card, and the book after that book. Explain that for the Book of Genesis, the child would simply say: "Genesis, Exodus." Lay another card on the table and let another child say the book before, the book, and the book after. Continue this activity until every child can correctly say the before and after books. Lead the group to say the five books of the Law in unison.

Give each child an activity page and lead the group to complete "Where Is the Vowel?" to reinforce learning the book names.

Dismiss the children to Family Bible Skills to Go.

## Beat the Clock!

- Use the "Books of the Bible Cards" (CD Item 3) from Group Skills for Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.
- Provide a stopwatch.
- Provide activity page 8 and a pencil for each child.

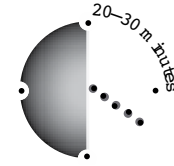
## Pronunciation Guide

- Genesis - JEN ih siss
- Exodus - EK suh duhs
- Leviticus - lih VIT ih kuhs
- Numbers - NUHM buhrz
- Deuteronomy - DOO tuh RAHN uh mih

Teaching Tip: A stopwatch is a good addition to your resources. The stopwatch is necessary for grooming older children for Bible Drill competition. Introducing the stopwatch to younger children will help them become comfortable with being timed.

Teaching Tip: Pair children with good Bible skills and reading skills with children who are new to learning Bible skills and have limited reading skills.

# Recreation



## Stepping Stones Game

- Provide the Giant Game Floor Mat (Administration, p. 13). Trim 20 sheets of white or gray construction paper to resemble stones. Print the words to Genesis 1:31 on the stones. If there are more than 20 words, print two words on some stones. Place the stones in the mat pockets so that consecutive words in the verse are adjacent in the floor mat to allow the children to step from one word to the next. The more twists and turns you design, the more fun the game will be.

Option: If the Giant Game Floor Mat is not available, print each word of Genesis 1:31 on a sheet of construction paper and tape the sheets of paper securely on the floor as suggested above.

## Stepping Stones Game

Invite each child to locate Genesis 1:31 in his Bible and read the verse aloud. Ask the children to name the things God created on the sixth day. (animals and people) Call on volunteers to say the verse from memory.

Spread the Giant Game Floor Mat on the floor. Call on a volunteer to find the first word in the memory verse, Genesis 1:31, and stand on it. Guide the child to step from that first word to each word of the verse in order, saying each word as he steps on it. Encourage the other children in the group to use their Bibles to check his progress and give guidance as needed. Ask for other volunteers to walk the words in the verse.

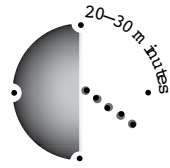
Invite all of the children in the group to line up beside the floor mat with the first child standing on the first word. Explain that at the call, "Start," the first child should begin stepping from word to word. The other children will follow closely behind her in follow-the-leader fashion. Suggest that they continue to walk the words to the verse three times, getting faster and faster each time. Each child should say the word as she steps on it. Try to keep the line moving so each child is just one word behind the person in front of her. The faster the line moves and the more children are saying the words at different times, the more confusion and the more fun they will have.

Continue letting children play as time allows. Lead them to say the verse in unison before dismissing them to Family Bible Skills to Go.

Variation 1: Change the order of the words and play the game again. Each time you move the words, be sure they are positioned so the children can step from one word to another in one step.

Variation 2: Turn some of the paper stones over so there is a blank paper without words in some pockets of the floor mat. Lead the children to continue playing the game, saying the correct word when they step on a blank stone.

# Crafts



## Nature Mosaic

Guide each child to locate Genesis 1:31 in her Bible. Lead the group to recall what God made on the sixth day. (animals and people) Remind the children that God made each one of them, and He thinks they are very good. Ask: "How can you know you are special to God?" Children's responses may include statements such as He loves me, Jesus died for me, He takes care of me, and He made me special. Say: "One way to know you are special to God is to understand that God has a special plan for your life. That plan includes trusting Jesus as your Savior and having a place of service that God has planned just for you."

Display the dried beans and kernels of corn. Compare the shapes and colors to lead the kids to see the beauty of the items. Lay out the pieces of poster board, markers, and glue. Guide the kids to print the memory verse on the piece of poster board, leaving at least two-inch margins for a border.

Show the children how to place beans and corn around the edges of the poster board to form a decorative border. Encourage each child to develop a plan for his border, using different colors and shapes, before gluing the beans and kernels in place. Suggest he may want to pencil a pattern first.

If a child wants to hang her mosaic, guide her to punch a hole in each upper corner, insert a piece of yarn or ribbon, and knot the ends together.

As the children work, talk with them about the wonderful things God has created. Discuss how some things are beautiful, some are funny, some are useful, some bring pleasure, some taste good, and so on. When the mosaics are completed, guide the kids to pray sentence prayers, thanking God for specific things He has created. Dismiss to Family Bible Skills to Go.

### Variation 1:

Younger children may have trouble printing the entire verse. They may print just the first sentence of the verse, or you may provide printed copies of the verse for them to paste onto construction paper.

Remember, the purpose of this activity is to memorize the verse. If you use this variation, lead the kids to repeat the verse several times.

### Variation 2:

If you do not wish to use real beans and kernels of corn, use confetti to form the border around the printed verse. Talk about the colors and guide the children to think of things God made in each color.

If you choose to use the confetti, you may use construction paper for the mosaic instead of poster board.

## Nature Mosaic

- Gather dried beans and kernels of corn (pop corn is good) in various sizes and colors.
- Provide a 10-by-12-inch piece of poster board and a piece of yarn or ribbon approximately 18 inches long for each child.
- Make available pencils, markers, craft glue, and a hole punch.

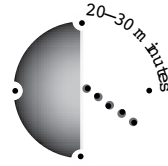
### Variation 1:

- Preprinting the verse will be helpful for younger children. Print for each child a copy of Genesis 1:31 from "Bible Verse Cards" (CD
  - Item 5a HCSB
  - Item 5b KJV).
- Provide construction paper instead of poster board.

### Variation 2:

- Cut various colors of paper to make confetti. The confetti pieces should be approximately the size of dried beans and corn.
- Provide construction paper instead of poster board.

# Service



## A Terrarium to Share

- Provide activity page 8 and a pencil for each child.
- Provide a glass quart jar with a lid, gravel or crushed charcoal, potting soil, small plants, small rocks, water, and small plastic animals.
- Provide a gift card, marker, 12-inch piece of ribbon, and a hole punch.
- Make plans to deliver the terrarium to a sick or homebound person. Consider letting the children accompany you.

Plant Suggestions: Provide small plants such as miniature violets, small ferns and grasses, mosses, and potting plants with small leaves.

Teaching Tip: Long handled tweezers or small kitchen tongs are helpful to place items in the terrarium; however, small hands fit comfortably into most jars.

## A Garden Terrarium to Share

Distribute the activity sheets and pencils and lead the children to complete "Where Is the Vowel?" Comment that by developing Bible skills, the children can study the Bible to learn about God and His purpose for them.

Guide each child to locate Genesis 1:31 in her Bible. Read the verse aloud. Ask: "What did God make on the sixth day? (animals and people) Is every animal good? What about poisonous insects and wild animals? (Each has a purpose in nature.) Is every person important to God? (Yes, God loves each one and has a special plan for each life.) Do you suppose God can use you to help someone feel loved?"

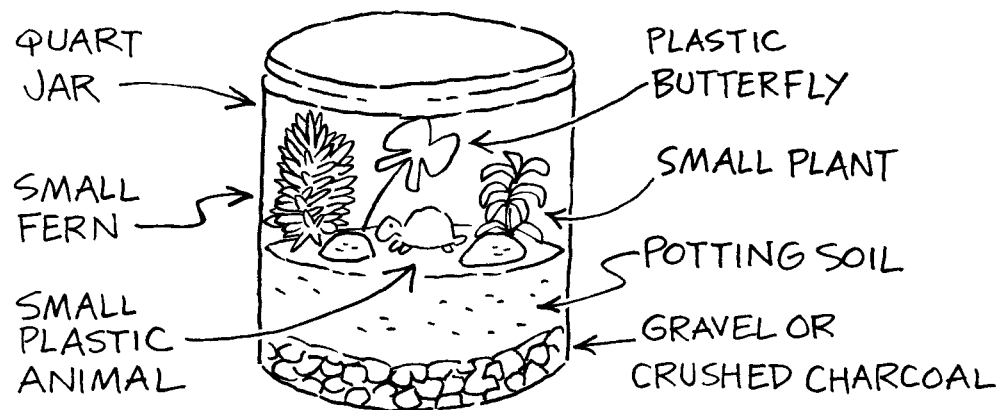
Say: "You are going to make a terrarium to share with someone who is sick or homebound." Explain that a terrarium is a garden in a jar.

Lead the group to work together to make a terrarium. Each child can volunteer to do a step.

1. Place about one inch of gravel or crushed charcoal in the bottom of the jar.
2. Add two inches of potting soil.
3. Add plants to the soil.
4. Place small plastic animals or butterflies and small stones for interest.
5. Sprinkle just enough water to moisten the soil.
6. Secure the lid on the jar.

Explain that keeping the jar closed will allow the moisture from the soil to rise to the top of the jar and then drop down on the plants and soil like rain. This allows the garden to grow for a long period of time with no care.

Ask a volunteer to print the first sentence of Genesis 1:31 on the gift card. As each child signs his first name to the back of the card, talk about the plans to deliver the terrarium. Punch a hole in the corner of the gift card and attach it to the jar with ribbon. Lead in prayer for the person who will receive the terrarium before dismissing to Family Bible Skills to Go.



# Meeting 2

## Every Good Gift Comes from God

Did you know that a loaf of bread and a wool sweater come from God? How can that be if you buy them at a store?

Begin at the loaf of bread and follow the rope to trace this gift to God.



Begin at the wool sweater and draw a line to trace this gift to God.



## Where Is the Vowel?

The vowels A, E, I, O, and U are missing in the names of the Old Testament books of Law. Fill in the blanks with the correct vowels to complete the Bible book names.

G \_ n \_ s \_ s

\_ x \_ d \_ s

L \_ v \_ t \_ c \_ s

N \_ m b \_ r s

D \_ \_ t \_ r \_ n \_ m y