

# God Provides Water

Exodus 17:1-7

Preschoolers can be very impatient when waiting for their needs to be met or their desires to be fulfilled. Just as the Israelites forgot what God had done, they sometimes forget that parents or caregivers have provided for them in the past. Use this lesson to help children understand that God loves them no matter what.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Getting Started</b></p> <p><i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Welcome and Celebrate</b></p> <p>Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player, scissors, crayons</p> <p><b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, bird and flower patterns</p> 	<p>Photocopy and cut out 2 or 3 flowers using the flower pattern.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Key Verse Activity</b></p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Needs and Wants</b></p> <p>Play a game to learn about how God gives us everything we need.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player</p> <p><b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Bible Exploration</b></p> <p><i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Puppy Pointers</b></p> <p>Hear how Theo gets over being grumpy.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, string or tape, small bowl</p> <p><b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	<p>Tie or tape the small bowl to Theo's paw.</p>
	<p><b>Bible Time: Water for God's People</b></p> <p>Discover water in a "rock."</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, paper grocery bag, bowl of water, stick or cane</p> <p><b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	<p>Put the bowl of water in the bag, and set out of reach of children.</p>

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



## ► Bible Point

God always loves us.

## Key Verse

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want" (Psalm 23:1).

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will know God loves them no matter what.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Weaving Faith Into Life</b> <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: God Gave Water</b> Make a craft showing “water” coming from a “rock.”</p>	My Bible Hugs, 1 paper muffin cup per child, glue sticks, blue crepe paper	Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them.
	<p><b>Center 2: Pretzel-Staff Snack</b> Clap pretzel sticks together to ask for juice.</p>	pretzel sticks, cups, juice, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: Water From a Rock</b> Mold “rocks” and “water” from modeling clay.</p>	brown and blue modeling clay	
	<p><b>Center 4: Like God’s Love</b> Make heart-shaped crafts.</p>	scissors, colored tissue paper, paintbrushes, liquid starch, cups of water, 1 copy per child of the “Big Love” page (at the end of the lesson)	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lasting Impressions</b> <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenges</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Thank God for his love.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*





### Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player  
scissors  
crayons

### Teacher Pack

CD: "We're at Church" (track 2), "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 5)  
bird and flower patterns

### Welcome and Celebrate Easy Prep

Photocopy and cut out 2 or 3 flowers using the flower pattern.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Welcome and Celebrate

**Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "We're at Church" (track 2 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **We're at church,** (*make a steeple with hands*)

**We're at church** (*make a steeple with hands*)

**To worship God and learn his Word** (*make a book with hands*)

**With a prayer and a song and a Bible story too.** (*make prayer hands*)

**God loves me and God loves you!** (*hug self; then point to others*)  
(Repeat 3x.)

Say: **Today we're learning that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US, just like we sang in our song. Let's sing a song about how God cares for us.**

Have the children sit in a circle, and place several crayons in the middle of the circle. Lead children in singing "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 5 on the CD). As children sing, have them pass the paper flowers around the circle. At the end of each stanza, pause the CD. Have the children who are holding the flowers thank God for something he's given them and quickly draw happy faces on the flowers. Then continue playing the CD. Repeat the song until everyone who wants to share has done so.

 **What are you worried about now?**

**Trying to figure it out now—**

**God knows right where you are now.**

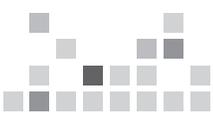
**You know it's all in his hands now.**

**You know he cares for you;**

**He always cares for you.**

**You know he'll see you through;**

**He'll always see you through.**



Cast all  
Your anxiety  
On him  
Because he cares for you.  
He cares for you.

Cast all  
Your anxiety  
On him  
Because he cares for you.  
He cares for you.  
Jesus cares for you.  
*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

What are you worried about now?  
Trying to figure it out now—  
God knows right where you are now.  
You know it's all in his hands now.

“He Cares for You” (1 Peter 5:7) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **These flowers are all dressed differently, aren't they? God made the flowers, and he cares for them. God made you, too, and he loves you so much. When we look at these flowers, we can remember ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US.**

**2** KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

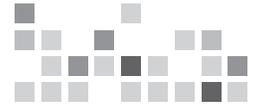
## Needs and Wants

### What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Psalm 23:1, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want” (Psalm 23:1). That means God's with us, taking care of us, and he gives us all we need. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in repeating the adapted verse with you: **God gives me everything I need (Psalm 23:1).**

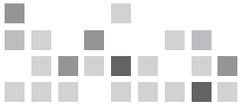
Say: **When I say I want something, and when I say I need something, it's two different things. I might want to watch TV or to eat candy. But I don't need to do those things. I do need food to eat and water to drink. Our Key Verse tells us God gives us everything we need.**



### Needs and Wants Supplies

Bible  
CD player  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: “I Need It!” (track 8)





Have the children stand in a line, shoulder to shoulder. Say: **Let's listen to some people on the CD and decide if each person needs something or wants something.**

Play "I Need It!" (track 8 on the CD). Be ready to pause it as directed. At the pause, say: **If you heard a need, step forward.** Have kids stand in place if they think it wasn't a need. **If you heard a want, step backward.** Have kids stand in place if they think it wasn't a want.

After children make a mistake, explain whether it was really a want or a need, and then lead children in stepping in the correct direction. Lead the children in repeating the adapted verse with you: **God gives me everything I need (Psalm 23:1).**

Continue this same process with each example in track 8 on the CD.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think about some of the things the people said they needed?
- What are some things you need?
- God gives you all you need. Why does that help you know God loves you?

Say: **We don't always get what we want, but God gives us everything we need. That's because ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US in the best way possible. Today we'll hear how God showed his love to some people in the Bible by taking care of their needs.**

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Puppy Pointers

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What do you have there?

**Theo:** I brought my water dish.

**Teacher:** Why did you bring your water dish, Theo?

**Theo:** I want you to get me some water right now.

**Teacher:** Can't you wait until snack time, Theo? We're getting ready to read the Bible.

**Theo:** But I want some water right now!

#### Puppy Pointers Supplies

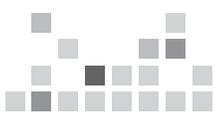
CD player  
Theo puppet  
string or tape  
small bowl

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 3)

#### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tie or tape the small  
bowl to Theo's paw.



**Teacher:** Please don't be angry with me, Theo. I've always taken care of you. I'll get your water soon. You know, we're learning our Bible Point about how God always loves us. Friends, let's all say our Bible Point for Theo. *(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US.)*

**Teacher:** And today we'll hear how God loved his people, the Israelites, and gave them water in the desert.

**Theo:** So maybe God will give me the water I need, too. I'm sorry for being grumpy. I love you.

**Teacher:** Thank you for saying you're sorry, Theo. I love you, too.

**Theo:** I'm going to go rest while I wait for you to fill my water bowl. I'll wait until after you read the Bible. I know you love me even when I'm grumpy, just as God loves all of us no matter how we feel.

**Teacher:** That's right, Theo. ► **GOD ALWAYS LOVES US.** Friends, let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you needed something as much as Theo seemed to need water.
- Why do you know God will always give you everything you need?
- Why are you thankful for God's love and care?

Say: **Theo needed water, and he was getting kind of grumpy about it. Like that, sometimes we can get grumpy when we're waiting for what we need. But we know that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US, and he'll be sure to give us what we need at the right time. Let's learn how God showed his love for some grumpy Israelites.**

## Bible Time: Water for God's People

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Open your Bible to Exodus 17:1-7, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we'll hear about God's people, the Israelites. They were walking in a desert. A desert is a hot, dry place.** Have the kids pretend to be hot and fan themselves.

Say: **Out there in the dry, hot desert, the Israelites got really thirsty. And they got very grumpy. And they started complaining. Let's listen.** Play "Angry People" (track 6 on the CD). Then lead the children in banging their fists on the floor and repeating, "We want water! We want water!"

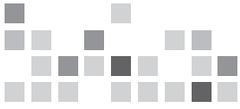
### Bible Time: Water for God's People Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- paper grocery bag
- bowl of water
- stick or cane
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Angry People" (track 6)

### Bible Time: Water for God's People Easy Prep

Put the bowl of water in the bag and set out of reach of children.





Say: **Moses asked God what to do. God told Moses to go to a certain rock with several other people and to hit the rock with his staff.**

Lead the children to the paper grocery bag with the water inside. Allow each child to use a stick or cane to tap the bag. Then open the bag and show kids the bowl of water.

Say: **God helped the Israelites by giving them water to drink. Even though the people were grumpy and forgot to trust God to care for them, God loved them.**  
▶ **GOD ALWAYS LOVES US, too.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about how grumpy the Israelites were?
- Tell about a time you were grumpy.
- What can you do to remember God will take care of you when you need something?

Say: **We don't need to be grumpy when we need something. We can trust God because we know ▶ GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. He'll care for us just as much as he cared for the Israelites.**

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### ■ CENTER 1: God Gave Water

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 3 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Here's a picture of the Israelites. They were grumpy because they needed water, and God provided water for them. Even though they were complaining and grumpy, God loved them and wanted the best for them.**

▶ **GOD ALWAYS LOVES US, too. Let's say that together.** Have kids repeat the Bible Point with you. **Let's make rocks like the one we heard about today in the Bible.**

#### Center 1: God Gave Water Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
1 paper muffin cup per  
child  
glue sticks  
blue crepe paper

#### Center 1: God Gave Water Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 3  
pages from each My  
Bible Hugs student  
book, and write  
children's names on  
them.

Have each child poke a hole in his or her muffin cup and stick a piece of blue crepe paper through it. Then have each child glue the edges of the muffin cup to the page so it looks like a rock with water running out of it.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Say: **These rocks can remind us that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US and takes care of us, just as he took care of the Israelites when they were thirsty in the desert.**

**CENTER 2:**

**Pretzel-Staff Snack**

**What You'll Do** ■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **When the Israelites needed water, God told them to tap a specific rock with a staff. Let's pretend to be the Israelites tapping our staffs to get something to drink.**

Give each child a handful of pretzel sticks, but no juice. Say: **Pretend your pretzel sticks are staffs. Tap them together like Moses tapped his staff against the rock.** After kids tap for a few seconds, serve them the juice.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's amazing about how God gave the Israelites water?**
- **What are some amazing things God can do for you?**
- **What do you like about being loved by God so much?**

Say: **God made water come from a rock. He does great things for us, too. That's because ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. Let's thank God for always loving us and for providing our snack.** Invite a child to pray for the snack, and then let children enjoy their pretzels and juice.

**CENTER 3:**

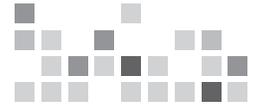
**Water From a Rock**

**What You'll Do** ■■■■

Say: **Today we're learning that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. He shows us he loves us in all kinds of ways, but one way we read about today was when he gave some thirsty people something to drink.**

Give each child a piece of brown modeling clay to make a "rock."

Say: **God showed his love for the Israelites by making water come from a rock.**



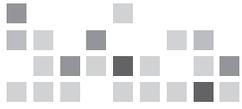
**Center 2: Pretzel-Staff Snack Supplies**

- 
- pretzel sticks
  - cups
  - juice
  - antibacterial gel (optional)

**! ALLERGY ALERT**

**Center 3: Water From a Rock Supplies**

- 
- brown and blue modeling clay



#### Center 4: Like God's Love Supplies

scissors  
colored tissue paper  
paintbrushes  
liquid starch  
cups of water  
1 copy per child of the  
"Big Love" page (at  
the end of the lesson)

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

Give each child blue modeling clay, and have children create "water" coming from their rocks. Invite children to discuss their favorite part of God's love as they work.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **When the Israelites were thirsty, they forgot how good God had been to them. God loved them so much, but they forgot that. ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US so much, too, even when we complain like the Israelites. But this week, let's trust God and thank him for always loving and taking care of us.**

#### ■ CENTER 4:

## Like God's Love

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a "Big Love" page. Say: **► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. He has a great big love for us. His love spreads everywhere. Let's see what that looks like.**

Show children how to brush liquid starch on the paper and then press pieces of tissue paper onto the starch. When they've added several pieces of the tissue, show them how to dip their brushes in clear water and paint over the tissue pieces so that the color spreads out onto the paper.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think of what happened with your heart?
- Tell about a time your love was so big that it seemed to spread.
- What are some ways God shows you that he loves you?

Say: **► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. His love spreads everywhere, just as the colors from the tissue are spreading everywhere on your paper! Love makes the world a much nicer place. Let's remember to love God because he always loves us.**

## 5

### LASTING IMPRESSIONS

## Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

## Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD ALWAYS LOVES US. I would like each of you to choose a way to remember this week that God always loves you.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Draw a picture of you and Jesus together. Put the picture in your pocket, and take it with you to remember that God loves you all the time.**
- ■ **Give a hug to a friend or family member who is sad, and say that God always loves him or her.**

Say: **If you want to draw a picture, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to give a hug, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

## Action Prayer

### What You'll Do

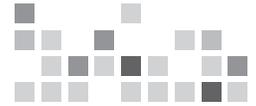
Gather kids in a circle, and have them hold hands. Have children repeat each line of the prayer after you.

Pray: **Dear God,  
Thank you for loving me  
And for loving my family.  
Help me, God, so I will say  
Only the truth every day.  
In Jesus' name, amen.**

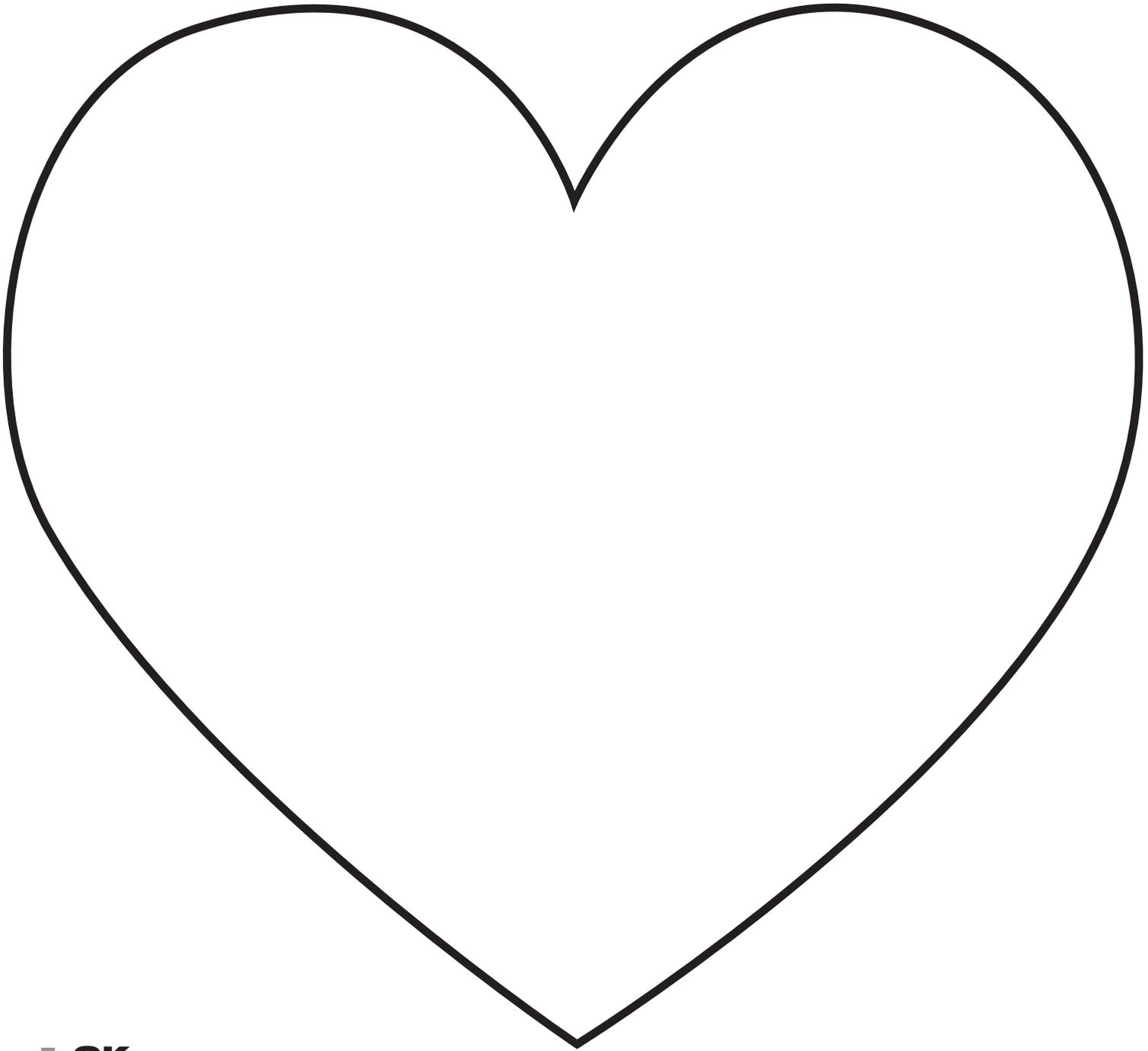
## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).



# Big Love



**OK**  
**TO COPY**

