



God Dwells With Us

John 1:1-14

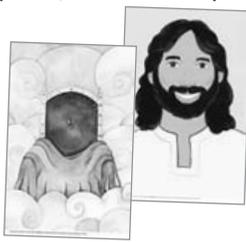
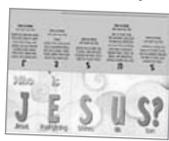
The Trinity is a concept many adults struggle to grasp. But children, unlike many adults, accept things as being simply true even though they don't understand them. Your preschoolers will believe that Jesus is God without needing to understand all the details of how that can be. Use this lesson to share with them the wonderful things Jesus did—and continues to do—and your preschoolers will understand that Jesus is incredibly special.



► **Bible Point**
Jesus is God.

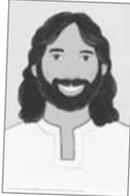
Key Verse
“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will understand and share the news that Jesus is God.

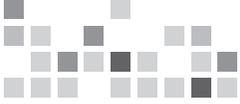
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>He Lived With Us Play a game to demonstrate how Jesus left heaven and was born on earth.</p>	<p>Bible Teacher Pack: “Heaven” poster, “Jesus’ Face” poster</p> 	
<p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Puppy Pointers See a book about Jesus.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, string, scissors Teacher Pack: CD, “Who Is J-E-S-U-S?” book template</p> 	<p>Cut the “Who Is J-E-S-U-S?” book template on the dotted lines between the capital letters, and fold the book in half horizontally. Tie the book to Theo’s paw.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: Who Is Jesus? Match card pictures to the lift-the-flap book as they hear the Bible.</p>	<p>Bible, 5 paper clips, scissors Teacher Pack: “Who Is J-E-S-U-S?” book template, “J-E-S-U-S” pictures</p> 	<p>Cut out the “J-E-S-U-S” pictures. Put one paper clip on the bottom of each letter on the “Who is J-E-S-U-S?” book template.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: J-E-S-U-S Cards Sort picture cards.</p>	My Bible Hugs, resealable sandwich bags, scissors	Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, write children's names on them, and cut out the cards at the bottom. Place each set of cards into a resealable plastic bag.
	<p>Center 2: Forever Friends Make heart-shaped snacks.</p>	bread, strawberry jelly, spoons, heart-shaped cookie cutter, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)	Use the cookie cutter to make a heart in each of two slices of bread.
	<p>Center 3: A Light in the Darkness Use a flashlight to find a picture of Jesus.</p>	flashlight Teacher Pack: "Jesus' Face" poster	
	<p>Center 4: The Glory of God Make a craft that shows how Jesus lights up the world.</p>	yellow construction paper, dark-colored markers, flashlight Teacher Pack: "Jesus" stickers	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Be in the spotlight as they're prayed for.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home 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

Teacher Pack

CD: "Lots of Friends" (track 2), "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 10)

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 "Lots of Friends" to the tune of "Ninety-Nine Bottles of Pop" (track 2 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.



Lots of friends have come to church; (*show gathering motion with arms*)

Lots of friends are here. (*point down*)

Come on over and join the fun. (*wiggle arms above head*)

We're all happy to see you today! (*smile and point to cheeks*)

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **This week we'll learn that ► JESUS IS GOD. Let's sing another song together. This song will help us remember that Jesus is God.**

Lead children in singing "Jesus Loves Me Rock" (track 10). Encourage children to sing the echoes in parentheses.



Jesus loves me; (*echo*)

This I know (*echo*)

For the Bible (*echo*)

Tells me so. (*echo*)

Little children (*echo*)

To him belong. (*echo*)

They are weak, but (*echo*)

He's so strong! (*echo*)

Jaaaayyy! (*echo*)

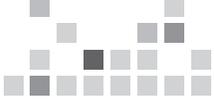
Eeeeeeee! (*echo*)

Ssssssss-aaaah! (*echo*)

Uuuuuu! (*echo*)

Ssssssss-aaaah! (*echo*)





And what's that spell? *(Jesus!)*
 And who do you love? *(Jesus!)*
 And who loves you? *(Jesus!)*
 Who died for you? *(Jesus!)*
 And who's your guy? *(Jesus!)*
 The apple of your eye! *(Jesus!)*
 And who's your friend? *(Jesus!)*
 He'll love ya to the end!

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"Jesus Loves Me Rock" by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: ► **JESUS IS GOD, and he loves you! This Christmas we get to celebrate that our God came to earth because he loves us.**

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

He Lived With Us

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

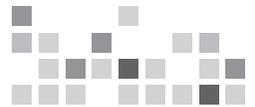
Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Luke 2:10-11, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Luke 2:10-11, says, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). Did you know that this is what we celebrate at Christmas? We celebrate that Jesus came to earth as a baby. Let me show you what I mean.**

Walk away from the children, and sit in a place that will be comfortable for all the children to recline. Say: **Let's pretend we're in heaven.** Encourage the children to join you. Then show the "Heaven" poster. Have the kids pretend to recline on comfy, fluffy clouds.

Once kids are reclining comfortably, say: **Jesus came from heaven. In our Key Verse, the angel told the shepherds, "I bring great news; Jesus is born!" Let's say that together.** Lead children in repeating the simplified version of the Key Verse after you: **I bring great news; Jesus is born! (Luke 2:10-11).**

Show the "Jesus' Face" poster, and say: **The Bible says that God became a man and**



He Lived With Us Supplies

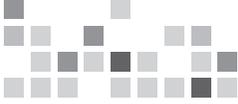
Bible

Teacher Pack

"Heaven" poster

"Jesus' Face" poster





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
string
scissors

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo" (track 4)
"Who is J-E-S-U-S?"
book template

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Cut the "Who Is J-E-S-U-S?" book template on the dotted lines between the capital letters, and fold the book in half horizontally. Tie the book to Theo's paw.

was born on earth to live with us. His name was Jesus. ► **JESUS IS GOD.** Let's say our Key Verse together while we play a game that will help us understand how God became a man and left heaven to be born on earth. Demonstrate the motions below that go with the Key Verse, and then let each child have a turn doing the motions.

First show the "Heaven" poster to the children, and lay it in the center of your group.

Say:

I bring great news (*hold hands around mouth like a megaphone*);

Jesus (*show the Jesus poster, and carry it with you as you and the kids leave the area and walk toward where you began the activity*)

Was born (*form a circle with the children and place the Jesus poster in the center*)

And lived with us. (*have everyone sit down*)

Say: **The most exciting news on Christmas is that Jesus, our God, is born!**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to travel from heaven to earth in our activity?**
- **Why do you think it's great that Jesus traveled from heaven to earth to be with us?**
- **What can you do to thank Jesus for coming to earth?**

Say: **Jesus had to live far away from his home in heaven, but Jesus came to earth because he loved us and wanted every person in the world to have the chance to live in heaven with him. Because ► JESUS IS GOD, when we believe in Jesus, we can live in heaven forever with him. Let's celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas by telling others our Key Verse.** Lead children in saying the adapted Key Verse with you again: **I bring great news; Jesus is born! (Luke 2:10-11).**

3

BIBLE EXPLORATION

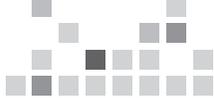
Puppy Pointers

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 4 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 a book about Jesus.

Teacher: Why did you bring a book about Jesus?

Theo: Because I heard that ► **JESUS IS GOD.**

Teacher: That's right, Theo! Today we're going to learn about how Jesus left heaven to live with us here on earth. And you just said our Bible Point. Friends, let's say our Bible Point again for Theo. *(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► **JESUS IS GOD.**)*

Teacher: That's a very nice book, Theo. Can we please use it while we read our Bibles?

Theo: Oh, yes! You can borrow it while you read your Bibles. I have to go home now. Have fun looking at my book about Jesus!

(Untie the "Who Is J-E-S-U-S?" book template from Theo's paw, and set it aside for use during Bible Time.)

Teacher: Thanks so much, Theo! 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:

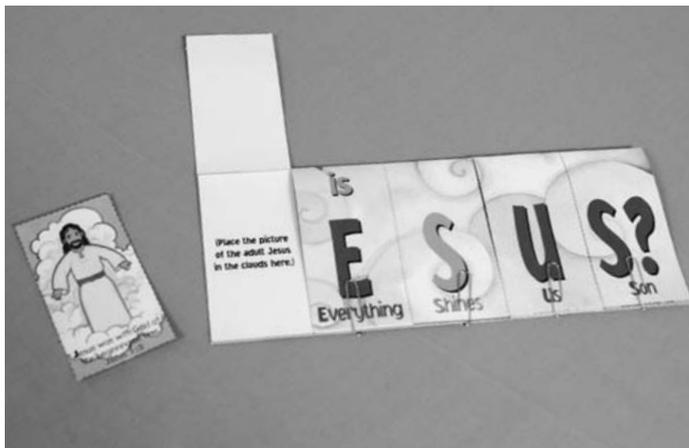
- Theo heard that ► **JESUS IS GOD.** What things have you heard about Jesus?
- Why are those things important to you?

Say: Theo heard that ► **JESUS IS GOD.** And he heard it right! Today we'll hear about how God's Son, Jesus, came from heaven to earth to live with us. Let's find out why God wants to live with us.

Bible Time: Who Is Jesus?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to John 1:1-14, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book. Say: **Today we'll learn in the Bible that ► JESUS IS GOD.**



Bible Time: Who Is Jesus? Supplies

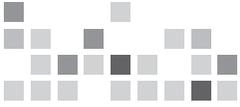
- Bible
- 5 paper clips
- scissors

Teacher Pack
"Who is J-E-S-U-S?" book template
"J-E-S-U-S" pictures

Bible Time: Who Is Jesus? Easy Prep

Cut out the "J-E-S-U-S" pictures. Put one paper clip on the bottom of each letter on the "Who is J-E-S-U-S?" book template.





Say: **Let's see if we can match the pictures to the letters of our "Who Is J-E-S-U-S?" book.** Put kids in five groups, and give each group one picture from the "J-E-S-U-S" pictures. Let all the kids examine the pictures you gave to their groups. Then hold up the book so all the children can see.

Say: **When I get to the part in the Bible that tells about the picture you're holding, I'll ask someone from your group to put it inside our "Who Is J-E-S-U-S?" book.** Check for understanding.

Point to the letter J. Say: **J is for Jesus. Jesus was with God in the very beginning of time.** Pause and then lift the flap and hold it up. Choose a child from the group with the picture of Jesus in heaven to place it in the book (using the paper clip) as you lead all the children in saying: ► **JESUS IS GOD.**

Say: **Even before our world was made, Jesus was alive! Jesus lived in heaven with his Father, God. They knew each other so well that they were one and the same! That's why we say that ► JESUS IS GOD.** Have the kids repeat ► **JESUS IS GOD** with you.

Point to the letter E. Say: **E is for everything. Everything was made by Jesus!** Pause and then lift the flap and hold it up. Choose a child from the group with the picture of the world to place it in the book (using the paper clip) as you lead all the children in saying ► **JESUS IS GOD.**

Say: **God spoke the words, and Jesus made everything, just like that. There isn't one thing anywhere in the world that Jesus didn't make.** Have the kids point out things in the room that Jesus made.

Point to the letter S. Say: **S is for shine. Jesus shines his light into our hearts. He lights our lives by filling us with his love.** Pause and then lift the flap and hold it up. Choose a child from the group with the picture of Jesus shining into our hearts to place it in the book (using the paper clip) as you lead all the children in saying ► **JESUS IS GOD.**

Ask:

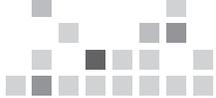
- **Tell about who or what you love.** Allow time.

Point to the letter U. Say: **U is for us. John the Baptist pointed us to Jesus. John the Baptist helped the people get ready for Jesus. Many people listened to John and followed Jesus, but not everyone believed. We believe, and that's why we say that ► JESUS IS GOD.** Pause and then lift the flap and hold it up. Choose a child from the group with the picture of John the Baptist to place it in the book (using the paper clip) as you lead all the children in saying ► **JESUS IS GOD.**

Ask:

- **Tell about someone who pointed you to Jesus.** Allow time.

Point to the letter S. Say: **S is for Son. Jesus is the Son of God.** Pause and then lift the flap and hold it up. Choose a child from the group with the picture of God the Father and



baby Jesus to place it in the book (using the paper clip) as you lead all the children in saying ► **JESUS IS GOD.**

Say: **When we believe that Jesus is God, we become children of God. Jesus came to us from the Father in heaven.** Close all of the flaps, and point to the words as you slowly read the back of the book from right to left, lifting the flaps as you go.

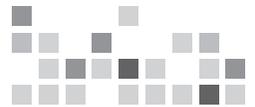
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you want to say to Jesus now?**

Say: **God sent Jesus from heaven because he loves you. Because ► JESUS IS GOD, we get to be friends with God. Let's take some time now to tell Jesus we want to be friends with him, and to thank him for his friendship.** Lead the children in a short prayer.



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: J-E-S-U-S Cards

What You'll Do ■■■■

Give each child a set of the cards you cut out from the My Bible Hugs pages. Say: ► **JESUS IS GOD. Today we learned he was with God in the beginning.** Show the J card with the picture of Jesus. **He made everything.** Show the E card with the picture of the world. **He shines his light into our hearts.** Let the children identify the S card of Jesus with a child. **John the Baptist pointed us to him.** Let the children identify the U card of John, Jesus, and a child. **And we celebrate Jesus coming to earth as a baby at Christmas.** Let the children identify the final S card of baby Jesus. Then say: **Jesus is the Son of God, and the best gift of all at Christmas!**

Let the children sort the cards and enjoy spelling Jesus' name. Or they can just point to a letter and say, for example, "E is for everything God made." They can also match the letter cards with the picture cards.

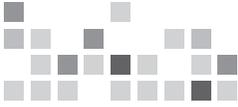
Center 1: J-E-S-U-S Cards Supplies

My Bible Hugs
resealable sandwich
bags
scissors

Center 1: J-E-S-U-S Cards Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 2 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, write children's names on them, and cut out the cards at the bottom. Place each set of cards into a resealable plastic bag.





Center 2: Forever Friends Supplies

bread
strawberry jelly
spoons
heart-shaped cookie cutter
napkins
antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 2: Forever Friends Easy Prep

Use the cookie cutter to make a heart in each of two slices of bread.

Help the children put their cards back into the plastic bags so they can be taken home to share with parents or siblings. Say: **Remember that Jesus is the best gift of all at Christmas. Save these cards to play with your family over the holiday—and tell them that ► JESUS IS GOD.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What is your favorite part about Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus is a great gift at Christmas?
- What can you do to thank God for his gift of sending Jesus?

Say: **We learned a lot today about who Jesus is, and why he came to earth. We also learned that Jesus is the best gift of all. This Christmas, let's help others know that ► JESUS IS GOD and he's the best gift we could ever get.**

■ CENTER 2:

Forever Friends

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack.

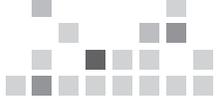
Hold up the two hearts you cut out ahead of time. Say: **These heart slices remind me of how much God loves us. But see how far apart the hearts are? Hold the slices far apart. Because people do bad things, they could never be close to God because God is perfect and never does anything wrong. But God wanted to be close to people, so he sent Jesus to earth to live with people.**

► **JESUS IS GOD, so he was able to show people just what God is like.** Bring the two heart-shaped slices of bread closer together. **Jesus loves us so much that he was willing to die on the cross to take away our sins.**

When people believe in Jesus, Jesus will be their forever friend and they'll never be apart! Spread strawberry jelly on one heart, and stick the two heart slices together. **Let's make a snack to remind us that ► JESUS IS GOD and that if we believe in Jesus, we'll never be apart from him.**

Help each child cut one heart out of a slice of bread. Once they have one heart, have them spread the strawberry jelly on it. Then go back around and help each child cut a second heart from a second slice of bread. (Let kids add jelly to the scraps of bread, too.) Then have kids stick their heart slices together. Before children enjoy their treats, lead them in a prayer.

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to be our forever friend. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you want your heart to be close to Jesus?
- What can you do to remember all week that you can be close to God and Jesus?

Say: **Our hearts need Jesus because he brings love into our lives. ► JESUS IS GOD, and he lived on earth so he could be close to you and me.**

CENTER 3:

A Light in the Darkness

What You'll Do

Darken the room slightly. So the darkness won't frighten your younger preschoolers, you can open your door a few inches to allow some light in.

Say: **The Bible taught us today that Jesus shines his love on us. ► JESUS IS GOD, and Jesus has all the love and light of God inside himself. He's like our sunshine, lighting up the world. I'm going to hide this poster of Jesus.** Show kids the poster, and then have them close their eyes. Place the poster somewhere in your room.

Say: **Open your eyes.** Give the flashlight to one child, and then choose another to follow the light from the flashlight. Say: **Our friend with the flashlight will shine light all around the room. Our other friend will follow that light wherever it goes and look for the picture of Jesus.** Check for understanding. **Even if you don't have a job, keep your eye on the light and look for the Jesus poster, too, while you stay seated.**

When the child finds the poster, have him or her bring it to you. Play more rounds as time allows. Then turn on the light.

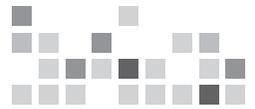
Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain what it was like to be in the darkness.
- What did you like about the light from the flashlight?
- Why can a light help you see?
- What does Jesus do to help you?

Say: **► JESUS IS GOD, and Jesus shines his light on all of us. If we believe in Jesus, we never have to be afraid because Jesus' light is always in us. Jesus helps us by bringing us love, by taking care of us, and by helping us understand all kinds of things about life. That's because ► JESUS IS GOD.**



Center 3: A Light in the Darkness Supplies

flashlight

Teacher Pack

"Jesus' Face" poster



Center 4: The Glory of God Supplies

yellow construction
paper
dark-colored markers
flashlight

Teacher Pack

“Jesus” stickers

■ CENTER 4:

The Glory of God

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God came down from heaven, chose to become a man, and lived with us—his name was Jesus. Jesus shines his love on us. ► JESUS IS GOD, and Jesus has all the love and light of God inside himself. Let's make a craft to show that Jesus is like our sunshine, lighting up the world.**

Give each child a sheet of yellow construction paper, and have them each draw a picture of Jesus' body. Then give them each a Jesus' face sticker to complete the picture of Jesus.

When kids are finished, turn down the lights and let them take turns shining the flashlight through the pages, while the other children watch. Help kids notice where the light goes as it shines through the paper, such as on other children.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you like about this activity?
- Why do you like that Jesus is a light?

Say: **It's as if Jesus is shining light on us when he gives us his love and forgiveness. That's why we sometimes call Jesus the “light of the world.” You can take your picture home to remind you that Jesus' love brings light to people.**

5

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

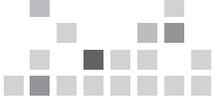
After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today. Also use this time to challenge kids in their 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 ► JESUS IS GOD. I would like each of you this week to choose a way to thank God for making you just as you are.**

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs



Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Draw a picture of Jesus. Show your picture to a friend, and shine a flashlight on the picture. Tell your friend that God shines his light through Jesus because Jesus is God.**
- ■ **Find a comfy place that can be like heaven in the clouds, and then act out how Jesus came from heaven to live on earth.**

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

Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Gather the children in a circle.

Say: **Before we pray, I'm going to turn off some of the lights so I can shine the flashlight on the person I'm praying for.**

Pray for each child individually. Make each prayer short and simple because kids' attention spans are not long. You might say, "Dear God, thank you for creating Jimmy. In Jesus' name, amen." Or you might pray, "Dear God, I thank you that Angela was able to come to church today. 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.

Action Prayer Supplies

.....
flashlight



