



# Faithful People Thank God for Jesus

Luke 2:22-40

Feeling thankful requires an awareness that someone has chosen to do something kind for you. Because preschoolers tend to be egocentric, they may not realize that someone has gone out of his or her way for them. You can help them gain a keener awareness of their peers. Use this lesson to help your preschoolers see how God cares for them through Jesus and thank him for all that he does.



► **Bible Point**  
We thank God for Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	<b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	<b>Praise for a King</b> Use their hands, arms, and bodies to make musical sounds, and sing to give praise to God.	Bible, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	<b>Puppy Pointers</b> Find out about Theo's surprise.	CD player, Theo puppet, string, gift-wrapped box <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Nativity Figures" page 	Place the baby Jesus from the "Nativity Figures" page into a small box and wrap it like a gift. Attach the box to Theo's paw.
	<b>Bible Time: Two Thankful People</b> Participate as they hear how thankful Simeon and Anna were for Jesus.	Bible, CD player, scissors <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Baby Pictures" page 	Cut apart the baby pictures.

**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 thank God for Jesus.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>4</b> Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Giving Thanks to God</b> Make pictures about why they're thankful for Jesus.</p>	My Bible Hugs, pen, crayons	Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p><b>Center 2: Happy Faces</b> Use yummy ingredients to create faces of people who are thankful for Jesus.</p>	crackers, spreadable cheese, raisins, licorice strings, spoons, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: Where Is Jesus?</b> Play a game to look for the picture of Jesus.</p>	scissors, "Baby Pictures" page from the "Bible Time" activity, baby Jesus from Puppy Pointers 	Mix all the picture cards together.
	<p><b>Center 4: Heavenly Mail</b> Receive a letter from "heaven."</p>	envelopes, scissors, crayons, "God's Love" page (at the end of the lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Jesus" stickers 	Address an envelope to your class. Write "God" as the return address. Cut apart the hearts on the "God's Love" page, and put them in the envelope and seal it.
<p><b>5</b> Lasting Impressions <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> Say a rhyming prayer.</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

### Teacher Pack

CD: "Lots of Friends" (track 2), "Joy to the World!" (track 3)

# 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: Today we'll learn that ► **WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS** because Jesus is the best Christmas gift of all times. Let's sing a Christmas song about Jesus coming to earth.

Lead children in singing "Joy to the World!" (track 3 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Joy to the world!** (*wave hands in the air—sing this 4x*)

**Joy to the world!** (*wave hands in the air*)  
**The Lord is come!** (*pretend to cradle a baby*)  
**Let earth receive her King!** (*hug self*)  
**Let every heart prepare him room,** (*touch hand to heart*)  
**And heaven and nature sing,** (*cup hands over mouth*)  
**And heaven and nature sing,** (*cup hands over mouth*)  
**And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.** (*cup hands over mouth*)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

**Joy to the world!** (*wave hands in the air—sing this 4x*)

"Joy to the World!" by George F. Handel.



**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Say: **When God sent Jesus to the world, he showed how much he loves and cares for us. ► WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS.**

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**2**

**KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY**

## Praise for a King

**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 kids 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).**

**God did something great when he sent his Son, Jesus, to the world. Jesus came to save the world. That's why 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).**

Say: **Let's celebrate this great news that God, our king, sent his Son. Let's show that ► WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS.** Split your kids into four groups. Show each group a different way to use their bodies as musical instruments. For example, one group may clap their hands, another slap their thighs, another cross their arms over their bodies and pat their arms, and another stomp their feet. Have each group practice playing its "musical instrument."

Lead the children in making a joyful noise with their "musical instruments" to the song "God Is the King" (Psalm 47:7) (track 6 on the CD).

 **Let's sing about the Lord,  
The greatness of our God,  
God is the king of everything.  
We're wild about his love  
And all that he has done,  
God is the king of everything.**

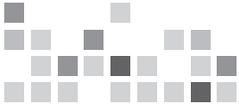
**I know God; I talk about him every single day.  
I pray to him at all times; he's the only way.  
I love him! He loves me no matter where I go,  
And everything I do will be for God and God alone.**

**Praise for a King  
Supplies**

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- Bible
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "God Is the King"  
(Psalm 47:7) (track 6)





Let's sing about the Lord,  
The greatness of our God,  
God is the king of everything.  
We're wild about his love  
And all that he has done,  
God is the king of everything.

Let's sing about the Lord,  
The greatness of our God,  
God is the king of everything.  
We're wild about his love  
And all that he has done,  
God is the king of everything,  
God is the king of everything,  
God is the king of everything.

"God Is the King" (Psalm 47:7) by Jay Stocker and Ben Glover. © 2005, 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you like about showing you're thankful to God with music?
- What other things do you do to show someone you're thankful?
- What can you do this week to show God you're thankful for Jesus?

Say: One way ► **WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS** is by singing and making musical instruments with our hands, feet, and arms. But there are many ways to show we're thankful, just as you all mentioned. This week, let's remember that God sent Jesus for us, and let's tell him we're thankful.

## 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.

#### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
string  
gift-wrapped box  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 4)  
"Nativity Figures" page

#### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Place the baby Jesus from the "Nativity Figures" page into a small box and wrap it like a gift. Attach the box to Theo's paw.



**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

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

**Theo:** I have a special gift—and it's for all of you!

**Teacher:** That's great, Theo. Friends, let's thank Theo for bringing this gift.

**Theo:** Oh, don't thank me. This gift isn't from me. I'm just carrying it to you.

**Teacher:** Hmm...who could have sent us a gift?

**Theo:** Open the present and see!

*(Open the box, and then pass it around so all the children can see Jesus inside.)*

**Teacher:** Children, who do we thank for sending baby Jesus? *(Pause while children answer.)* Theo, this gift fits right in with our Bible Point. Friends, let's say our Bible Point for Theo. *(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS.)*

**Theo:** Wowser—that's important. I'm going to go and see if my owner is thankful for Jesus. 'Bye, kids!

**Teacher:** 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:

- What were you thinking when we opened the gift?
- What do you like about opening an amazing gift?
- Why do you think Jesus is a gift to us?

Say: **God gave his Son, Jesus, to us as a gift. Jesus was the first Christmas present to the world. That's why ► WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS. Today we'll hear from the Bible about two people who were also thankful that Jesus was born.**

## Bible Time: Two Thankful People

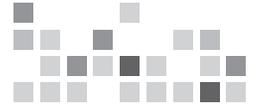
### What You'll Do ■■■■

Open your Bible to Luke 2:22-40, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today in the Bible, we'll hear from two special people who were waiting and watching for Jesus to be born. Let's listen.**

Play "Thankful" (Part 1) (track 19 on the CD), and lead the children in responding to the prompts on the CD. Pause the CD as directed, and press play again after you're done following each prompt.

Give each child a baby picture, and have children line up in front of the speakers on the CD player. When the children are in line and ready, play "Thankful" (Part 2) (track 20 on



### Bible Time: Two Thankful People Supplies

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Bible  
CD player  
scissors

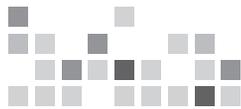
#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Thankful" (Part 1) (track 19); "Thankful" (Part 2) (track 20)  
"Baby Pictures" page

### Bible Time: Who Is Jesus? Easy Prep

.....  
Cut apart the baby pictures.





the CD). Have the children show their baby pictures as they get to the front of the line and wait until Simeon makes a comment before they step aside or go to the back of the line. When Simeon finds Jesus (the “baby” he will identify as Jesus will be any one of the baby pictures), have kids sit. Lead the children in responding to prompts on the CD. Pause the CD as directed, and press play again after you’re done following each prompt.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What were you thinking as Simeon and Anna looked for baby Jesus?
- Tell about a time you waited and looked for something.
- Why do you want to see Jesus in your life?

Say: **Simeon and Anna waited for Jesus for years. God had told them that he was coming to save the world. So when baby Jesus was finally born and they saw him, they were so thankful. Baby Jesus was born for you and me, too. ► WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS because he came to save us, too!**

## 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:

## Giving Thanks to God

### What You’ll Do ■■■■

Give each child crayons and a Lesson 4 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Simeon and Anna knew Jesus would change their lives. They knew that he could change your lives, too, if you believe in him. At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus’ birth because when we believe in him, he forgives us for the wrong things we do, and he gives us hope and happiness. Let’s take some time now to show why ► WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS.**

Encourage the children to draw pictures to show why they’re thankful for Jesus. For example, they could show a picture of Jesus holding them because they’re thankful Jesus takes care of them. Let the children express themselves freely, but if they have trouble knowing what to draw, help them translate what they’re thankful to God for into pictures.

### Center 1: Giving Thanks to God Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
pen  
crayons

### Center 1: Giving Thanks to God Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children’s names on them.



As the children finish, ask each child to explain his or her picture. Write the words, just as the child says them, at the bottom of the page.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What things do you need from Jesus?
- Why do you know Jesus will take care of you?
- Why are you thankful for Jesus?

Say: ► **WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS at Christmas because that's when Jesus was born. But let's remember Jesus takes care of us all year long. Jesus came to save us, protect us, and take care of us.**

### ■ CENTER 2:

## Happy Faces

### What You'll Do ■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: ► **WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS. When we're thankful we smile. Show me a smile now.** Pause.

Say: **Let's make faces of people who are thankful for Jesus.** Give each child three round crackers, six raisins, and a string of licorice. Show the children how to break the licorice into three pieces.

Give each child a dab of spreadable cheese on each cracker. Say: **Use your spoon to spread the cheese all over each cracker.** Allow time. **Now put the raisins on the crackers for eyes and the licorice for mouths.** Remind kids that people all over the world are thankful for Jesus.

Lead the children in a prayer, thanking God for the snack.

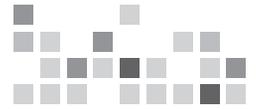
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why are you thankful for your snack?
- What are some other things you're thankful for?
- What can you do this week to show God you're thankful for everything he gives you?

Say: **Our smiling snacks showed what we look like when we're thankful. And we sure do have a lot to thank God for. God gives us every good thing, but the most important thing God ever gave us was Jesus. This week, let's remember that**  
► **WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS.**

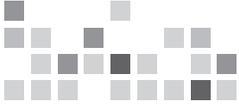


### Center 2: Happy Faces Supplies

- crackers
- spreadable cheese
- raisins
- licorice strings
- spoons
- napkins
- antibacterial gel (optional)

**! ALLERGY ALERT**





### Center 3: Where Is Jesus? Supplies

scissors  
“Baby Pictures” page  
from the “Bible Time”  
activity  
baby Jesus from Puppy  
Pointers

### Center 3: Where Is Jesus? Easy Prep

Mix all the picture cards  
together.

### Center 4: Heavenly Mail Supplies

envelopes  
scissors  
crayons  
“God’s Love” page (at  
the end of the lesson)

### Teacher Pack “Jesus” stickers

### Center 4: Heavenly Mail Easy Prep

Address an envelope to  
your class. Write “God”  
as the return address.  
Cut apart the hearts on  
the “God’s Love” page,  
and put them in the  
envelope and seal it.

## CENTER 3:

# Where Is Jesus?

## What You’ll Do

Lay the picture cards facedown. Say: **Let’s play a game where we can say reasons we’re thankful to God for Jesus. We’ll take turns picking up the cards, looking for the baby Jesus card. If you find the baby Jesus card, tell a reason you’re thankful for Jesus.**

Have children take turns picking up one card at a time. When a child finds the baby Jesus card, lead him or her to complete the sentence, “I am thankful for Jesus because...” Once a child finds the card, reshuffle the cards and play again.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Our friends told all kinds of things to thank God for in our game. What new things did you find out?**
- **Tell about something you want to thank God for this week.**

Say: **We have all kinds of things to thank God for. ► WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS, for his love for us, and for how well he takes care of us. We can thank God every day for all that he does for us!**

## CENTER 4:

# Heavenly Mail

## What You’ll Do

Show children the envelope you prepared. Say: **Look! We have a letter! Who do you think it’s from? We’re going to pretend this letter is from God. Let’s see what God sent us.** Open the envelope, and let kids look inside. Encourage each child to take three or four of the hearts. **God wanted to show us his love, so he sent Jesus to earth to help us. ► WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS.**

Say: **Let’s make our own envelopes so we can show others we’re thankful that God sent Jesus to help us!**

Give each child an envelope, several pre-cut hearts, and at least one Jesus on the cross sticker from the “Jesus” stickers sheet. Encourage kids to put the Jesus stickers on their hearts. You can also have them draw Jesus on the cross on extra hearts. Have the kids put the hearts inside their envelopes. Help children “address” their envelopes if they wish. When kids have finished, tell them to seal the envelopes.



Say: **You can open this envelope during the week and use it to tell others we're thankful that God sent Jesus to help us.**

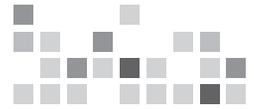
**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why do you know that Jesus and God love you?**
- **What can you do to show others that God loves them?**

Say: **God loved us so much that he sent Jesus to earth to help us. We can be thankful to God for Jesus every day, and we can tell others about God's love, too. Let's all shout ► WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS!** Lead kids in shouting the Bible Point together.



**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 ► WE THANK GOD FOR JESUS. I would like each of you to choose a way to thank God this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Make up a song with motions, thanking God for Jesus, and perform it for your mom or dad.**
- **Make sure that every day you tell someone thanks for something he or she has done. Then thank God for putting that person in your life.**

Say: **If you want to sing, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to say thanks every day, 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!

**Daily Challenges  
Supplies**

My Bible Hugs



## Action Prayer

### What You'll Do

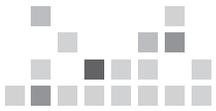
Ask the children to tell what they want to thank God for right now. Allow each child to share, then have your children repeat this prayer after you.

Pray: **Dear God,**  
**Thank you for the things you made.**  
**Thank you for the world you gave.**  
**You give good things to all of us.**  
**Thank you most for your Son, Jesus.**  
**In Jesus' name, amen.**

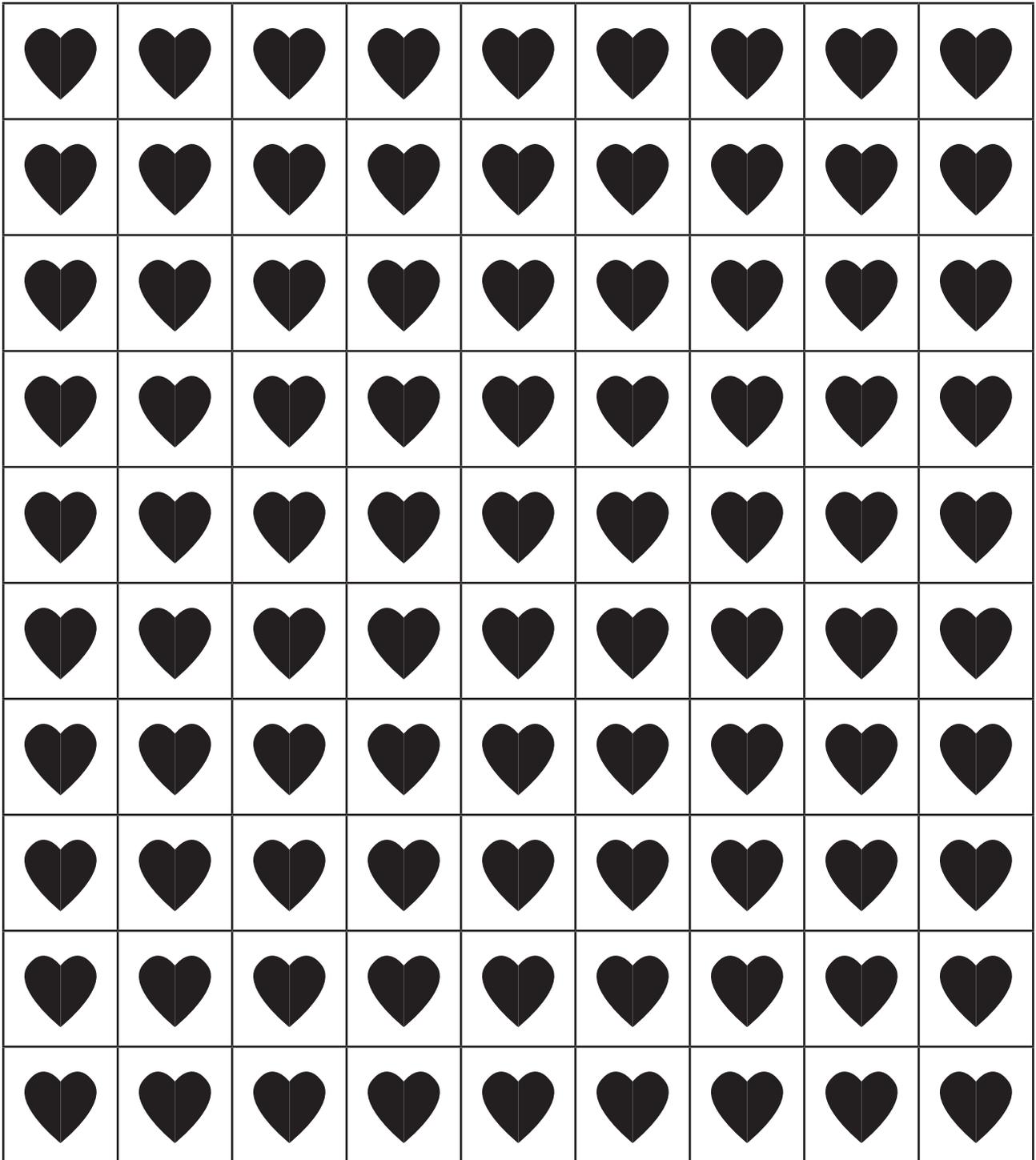
## Weaving Faith at Home

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).



# God's Love



**OK  
TO COPY**



