

LESSON PLAN

For Lower Elementary Students & Classes

Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class to greet students and parents by name. Have the day's Bible Message written on the white board or on poster board that all the kids can see. Consider using a repeatable special greeting ("This is the day the Lord has made!") or handshake for your students.



Opening Prayer Song

Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Take a minute and have students greet each other by name. It helps build community after not seeing each other for a week. The opening prayer song should be sung every week with these young kids — repetition is good.

This is sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Accompaniment music isn't needed.

*Heavenly Father, we love you,
thanks for everything you do.*

*Open our hearts and open our ears,
so we can learn from what we hear.*

*Thanks for hearing us when we pray,
and for loving us every day. Amen.*

Introduction to Today's Bible Message

Teacher's Script (student responses are in bold).

Today's Bible message is: Praise the Lord! Sometimes we feel very happy because God is good and we love him and want to thank him for everything. Say it with me. **Praise the Lord!** Say it louder. **Praise the Lord!**

- Raise your hand if you can tell me something you celebrate. *(It can be holidays, a new shirt, or something good that happened that day.)*
- Raise your hand if you can tell me what you do to celebrate something. *(Point out that a celebration doesn't have to be a big deal to still be a celebration.)*

Today's story is about when David brought God's Ark back to Jerusalem. It was being stored somewhere else for a long time, but was finally being brought home. **Praise the Lord!** All the people celebrated.

Read the Story while Showing the Pictures

Each Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture to be printed on letter-sized paper (or enlarged to ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available). The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading.

David Enters Jerusalem

Based on Genesis 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 6:1-5, 16-22

God's Ark was a special box that held some of God's things in it: the Ten Commandments, Priest Aaron's rod or staff (thick stick), and a jar of manna (food from the wilderness). *[What was in God's Ark?]* It was covered with gold, so it was very heavy. *[Why was it heavy?]*

Picture 1

God's Ark was being stored in a house in the country. One day it was time to bring it back to Jerusalem. David got all the men together and put it on a new cart. *[How were they going to move it?]* They brought it from the country house on a hill into the city. *[Where were they taking the Ark?]* It was a very special day.

Picture 2

All the way into the city the people played their instruments, sang, and danced. King David was very happy to have God's Ark near the castle, and he sang and danced with the people. They were all praising God and thanking him. *[Why were the people so happy?]*

Picture 3

King David made a special tent called a tabernacle to put God's Ark in. *[What was the special tent called?]* When it was in its place, David gave special offerings to God, and he gave gifts to the people. He gave them a small loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. *[Which gift would you like best?]*

Picture 4

After David and all the people went home, David's wife was angry. "Why were you dancing in front of all the people?" she asked. *[Why was she angry?]* King David said, "I was dancing for the Lord and thanking him for all he's done for me." *[Why was he dancing?]*

Bible Message

Do you remember today's Bible Message? **Praise the Lord!**

Optional Activities for Young Children

You can choose one or two of the optional activities, depending on how much time you have. Be sure to leave time to go over the Take-Home Page before students leave.

a. Fingerplay

A fingerplay is a story or rhyme with hand actions or movement that includes repeated lines to reinforce the story and/or the weekly Bible message.

Today's repeat actions are: clapping, stomping, spinning around, and shouting Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

To the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

If God loves you and you know it, clap your hands. X X

If God loves you and you know it, clap your hands. X X

If God loves you and you know it, clap your hands and really show it, if God loves you and you know it, clap your hands. X X

Following verses:

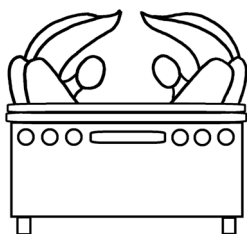
- 2) If God loves you and you know it, stomp your feet.
- 3) If God loves you and you know it, spin around.
- 4) If God loves you and you know it,
(shout) PRAISE THE LORD!
- 5) If God loves you and you know it, do it all. (clap clap, stomp stomp, spin around, PRAISE THE LORD!)

b. Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember it. The rule is that whoever is speaking can only say one sentence or one thing. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. The story needs to be in the right order.

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page apart and let them put the illustrations (no words) in order while they tell the story.

START: King David decided it was time to bring God's Ark back to the city of Jerusalem. Then what happened?



c. Song

This simple camp song has motions and can be found online.

I've Got the Joy!

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart.
(Where?)

Down in my heart; (Where?)

Down in my heart.

I've got the joy joy, joy, joy, down in my heart.
(Where?)

Down in my heart to stay.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart. (Where?)

Down in my heart; (Where?)

Down in my heart.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus, down in my heart. (Where?)

Down in my heart to stay.

d. Young Children's Craft

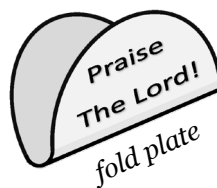
Praise the Lord Hand Maracas

- Somewhat sturdy dessert-sized paper plates
- Crayons or markers
- Dried beans or unpopped popcorn
(a couple of tablespoons for each student)
- Stapler that will go through two plates

Write PRAISE THE LORD! on the outside top-half of the plate. (Younger kids may need help.) Let the kids decorate/color their plates. Fold each plate like a taco and staple the rounded edge about half way up. Pour in the beans, then staple the whole thing so the beans don't escape. Make music and PRAISE THE LORD!

Crafts may best be left to the end of class if behavior is a challenge. See the craft summary list for a description of all the younger children's crafts in this unit.

staples along edge (beans inside)



Take-Home Page

Repetition is very important to learning. The Take-Home Page allows teachers to review the story at the end of class. Invite children to take a seat at a table, and give each a copy of the Take-Home Page. Use the following questions to guide discussion. If necessary, explain to kids about thought and dream bubbles.

Encourage children to use the Take-Home Page to tell the story to their family.

Have children point to Picture 1.

- Raise your hand if you can tell me something you see in this picture. *(Allow kids to answer until they start repeating answers or become silly.)*

Read the words under Picture 1.

- Where is the ark coming from, and where is it going?
- Look at the cart and the ark. Do you think the ark is heavy? Why or why not?



Have children point to Picture 2.

- Raise your hand if you can tell me what the people are doing. *(They are dancing, singing, playing instruments, etc.)*

Read the words under Picture 2.

- Do you think the people are happy or sad? How can you tell?
- Do you like to dance and sing? Do you want to learn to play an instrument?



Have children point to Picture 3.

- Raise your hand if you can tell me where they're putting the ark.

Read the words under Picture 3.

- David is giving the people gifts. Raise your hand if you can tell me what they are.



Have children point to Picture 4.

- Raise your hand if you can tell me who's in the picture. Is David's wife happy?

Read the words under Picture 4.

- Why do you think David's wife is unhappy with him?
- David was celebrating a good God. How could you celebrate a good God? *(dance around the room or sing songs)*



Have children point to the Bible Message at the top of the page.

Do you remember today's Bible Message? **Praise the Lord!**

Closing Prayer

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Thank you, Jesus, for teaching me.

Bless me, my friends, and my family.

*This week I ask you to keep me safe
and through the week to grow my faith.*

*Bring me back to learn again,
and fill my heart with love. Amen.*