

FAITHWEAVER FRIENDS | WHERE KIDS EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE!

Also works great with
**FAITHWEAVER NOW™ &
KIDSOWN WORSHIP®!**

FAITHWEAVER
FRIENDS®

WHERE KIDS EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE

INSIDE

- Program Overview
- Helpful Tips
- Sample Lessons
- Scope & Sequence
- Ordering Information ▶

Group
Real. Bold. Love.



WHERE KIDS EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE!

WHAT'S INSIDE...

How FaithWeaver Friends Works 3

Sample Lessons..... 4

 Leader Guide 4

Elementary

 Opening & Closing Celebrations..... 6

 Surprise Station..... 8

 Games 10

 Music & Memory 12

 Projects-With-a-Purpose 14

Elementary & Preschool Snack-It 16

Preschool

 Director & Storyteller 18

 Play-It 22

 Make-It..... 24

 Learn-It 26

Elementary Journal 28

Preschool Journal 30

Opening & Closing Celebrations Skit..... 32

Scope & Sequence 34

Getting Started 36

FaithWeaver Friends helps kids become...

FRIENDS WITH GOD: Through prayer, praise, and journaling, kids deepen their friendship with God.

FRIENDS WITH ONE ANOTHER: By experiencing community in small groups, kids grow in friendship with one another.

AND FRIENDS WITH THOSE IN NEED: Through kid-sized service projects, kids learn the blessing of being a friend to those in need.

Friends Love at All Times... Proverbs 17:17



SEE WHY FAITHWEAVER FRIENDS® WILL WORK FOR YOU!

- ✓ **2 AGE LEVELS:** Preschool and Elementary
- ✓ **SCOPE AND SEQUENCE:** 3 years
- ✓ **FORMAT:** Large-group/ small-group, activity center rotation
- ✓ **LENGTH:** 30 – 90+ minutes



Check out this 2-minute overview.



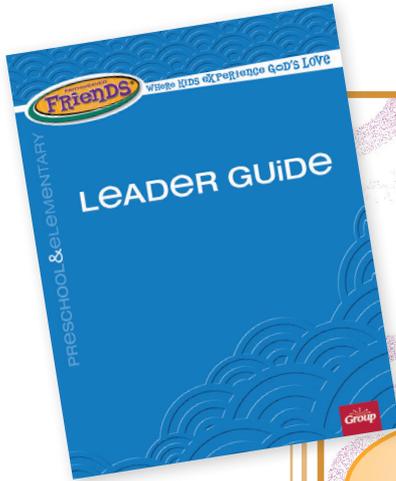
How FaithWeaver Friends® Works in the Classroom:



WHAT OUR FRIENDS IN MINISTRY ARE SAYING...

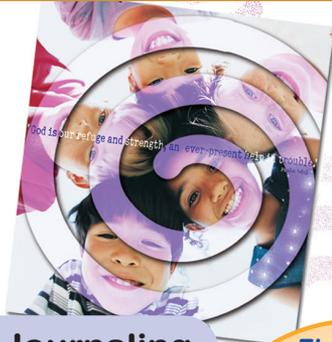
The ability to pick and choose what you would like to use in each station is a time saver and a brain saver. The active learning and hands-on approach is a hit with the kids. I love that you can adjust the time per cycle to what you need. The fact that I can send a copy of the lessons through email is super great! The director update with dates and lessons is great, as well.

Darcie T., Children's Ministry Director
 San Pedro, CA



1
WEEK

Count on God



Preschool Key Verse
God is our help
(adapted from Psalm 46:1).

Leading Kids in Journaling

1. Have kids find the week's Key Verse and talk about what it means.
2. Help children read, write, and draw in their journals.
3. Share prayer needs and praises. (Track these on page 29.)
4. Pray together.
5. Collect the journals, and write a note to each child.

Elementary Key Verse
"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

BIBLE BACKGROUND provides leader enrichment.

 **David Becomes King**
2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

Bible Background for Leader Enrichment

We begin this quarter of Old Testament studies with the anointing of David as king of Israel. Many years earlier, Israel's first king, Saul, had turned from the Lord, and God had selected David to succeed Saul. For years after that, Saul sought to have David killed. However, David had refused to act against Saul or to become king until he was certain of God's timing. He had lived a difficult life, almost as an outlaw. Now Saul was dead; after being wounded in battle, he had taken his own life. In fact, Saul and three of his sons, including David's friend Jonathan, had died in the same battle (1 Samuel 31:1-6). So the door was wide open for David to become king of Israel.

David didn't rejoice when he learned of the deaths. Instead, he and all his men mourned and wept the entire day (2 Samuel 1:1-12). David even wrote a song in honor of Saul and Jonathan, found in 2 Samuel 1:19-27. He was truly saddened that their lives had ended as they did.

David was made king of Judah but Israel followed Abner, the commander of Saul's army, who made Ish-Bosheth, a son of Saul, king over Israel (2 Samuel 2:1-9). After years of much fighting, intrigue, and bloodshed, Ish-Bosheth was murdered, and the leaders of Israel came to David to make him king over them.

The brief division of the kingdom that had occurred during the war between Ish-Bosheth and David was a fore-taste of what was to come. In less than 75 years, after the reigns of David and Solomon, Israel and Judah divided into two kingdoms again. However, David's dynasty reigned in Judah for over 400 years.

David was 37 when he became king over all Israel. He had first been anointed to succeed Saul many years earlier, while still in his teens. After his long, patient wait, David was able to lead Israel to great prosperity, fend off the Philistines, and expand the boundaries of Israel during his reign. David wasn't perfect, but as he relied on God, God rewarded him and Israel with prosperity.



David wrote Psalm 37, which describes his trust in God even when he was surrounded by enemies. In this psalm, David says to "delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4). This could have been the theme of David's life.

Devotion for Leaders

Through Jesus, God showed us how to take every step of life relying on him. Because of Jesus' courage, we can believe that trusting God will always be worth it!

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: What past experience has God used to teach you how to rely on him? God has a wonderful way of not letting teaching moments in our lives go to waste. What is God using to teach you right now? Ask God for wisdom to see and strength to move forward with faith. He'll always have everything you need.

FRIENDS HELPS LEADERS grow in their friendship with Jesus, too!

Discovery Center Questions

Preschool

Play-It: Reliable Relay

Ran a relay.

- What was it like to carry such a big box?
- How did you count on your partner?
- When is it important to count on God?
- * Why do you think David counted on God?

Make-It: Crowning Glory

Made a crown.

- Why do you think God chose David to be king?
- Who are people you can count on, or who are always there to help you?
- How can you let God know that you are counting on him?
- * How can you thank God for being there when you need him?

Learn-It: King's Crown

Crowned one another.

- How do you think David felt when God made him king?
- What are you counting on God to do?
- What do people trust you, or count on you, to do?
- * Who helps you remember to do these things?

Snack-It Café: Sweet Words

Made edible notes.

- How do you hope your note will encourage someone else at FaithWeaver Friends?
- What are other ways we can encourage each other to count on God?
- When do you most need someone to remind you to count on God?
- * Who can you remind to count on God?

Elementary

Games: Chin and Bear It

Gathered objects with and without help.

- What made the game difficult the first time we played?
- How did you count on the helper the second time?
- How can we  count on God to help us each day?
- * What are good reasons to count on God?

Games: Noteworthy Numbers

Shared significant numbers.

- What number might help you remember to count on God, and why?
- Who would like to tell about the times God has helped you?
- * How might your life be different if you counted on God more?

Surprise Station: Count on This

Did a numbers experiment.

- What can you always count on with this experiment?
- How does this experiment remind us we can count on God?
- Whom will you show this experiment to, and what will you teach that person about God?
- * What might make it hard for you to count on God?

Projects-With-a-Purpose: Thank You, Fire Crew!

Wrote thank-you notes.

- Why do you think firefighters risk their lives to help people they don't even know?
- What if we couldn't count on firefighters?
- What if we couldn't count on God?
- * Who are other people we count on each day?

Music & Memory: Psalm 46:1

Learned a verse.

- What places give you refuge or safety?
- Who can you go to for safety?
- How is God a refuge?
- * What troubles do you need God to help you with now?

Snack-It Café: Sweet Words

Made edible notes.

- How do you hope your note will encourage someone else at FaithWeaver Friends?
- What are other ways we can encourage each other to count on God?
- When do you most need someone to remind you to count on God?
- * Why is dependability important in a relationship?

Connect with Kids

When kids fill out the "This Week Was..." thermometers, tell them to mark the 10 if it was the *best* week of their lives. If it was the *worst* week of their lives, ask them to mark the 1. They may mark in between to represent more average weeks. Listen to what kids share. Their answers will give you insight into what kids value and what they're struggling with.

The next time someone asks you what's new, proudly say,

"I'm helping God shape young lives for eternity!"

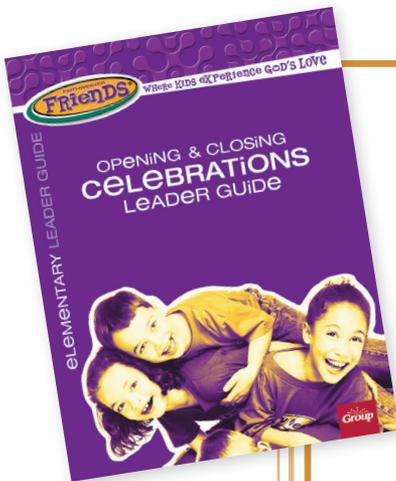
That's precisely what you're doing!

EASY REFERENCE

for your leaders lists the questions from each Discovery Center, plus bonus questions.

AFFIRMATIONS

encourage your leaders.



Week 1

Count on God



David was 30 years old when he was anointed king of Israel. He reigned for 40 years (2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37).

Welcome

Warmly welcome kids to FaithWeaver Friends. Encourage them to find a place to sit, and then launch into singing and celebration!

Singing

Use the following songs from the CD to welcome kids and to set the tone for the program.

- ☺ "Trust in the Lord" (Proverbs 3:5-6) (track 21)
- ☺ "And You Love Me" (Psalm 139:1-3) (track 22)

Bible Story Supplies

no supplies needed

For Extra Fun Announcements

- bottle of honey
- bread

Announcements

Before the kids arrive, write the announcements on a small piece of paper and tape it to a bottle of honey.

As you begin the announcement time, pour honey onto the bread and begin eating. Notice the announcements on the bottle and read them to the kids while you eat.

Include the following in your announcements:

- Encourage participation in this quarter's service project of creating school kits.
- Celebrate birthdays and half-birthdays with the "Friends Birthday Song" (track 26).
- Show a "gentleness" Fruit of the Spirit Key, and explain how Circle leaders will be distributing the keys during the quarter.
- Explain the Friends Friendly handshake.
- Welcome visitors.
- Announce the Wacky Holiday:

September is National Honey Month.

SAY To celebrate this holiday, buzz around like bees, and find three people who are not in your Circle of Friends. Give them each a Friends Friendly handshake. Then buzz back to your seat! Go!

Play ☺ "Flight of the Bumblebee" (track 7) from the CD.

How to Give the Friends Friendly Handshake:

*It's easy!
Simply cross the index and middle fingers of your right hand. You'll create a "cross" with your fingers. Then shake hands! Explain that the cross is a symbol of Jesus' love and this handshake symbolizes how we can carry Jesus' love to all our friends—and everyone we meet!*

Ask preschoolers to travel with their leaders to their meeting room.

Circle of Friends

Ask kids to circle up with their Circles of Friends, open their faith journals to Week 1, and fill out the "This Week Was" thermometer. Ask Circles to then discuss how the week has gone and the "Let's Talk About..." question.

WACKY HOLIDAYS
give kids an easy way to connect and get to know each other.

PERSONALIZED STORY TIME
for preschoolers to enjoy after announcements.

KIDS CONNECT WITH LEADERS
each week.

Bible Story

While kids meet with their Circles of Friends, pull aside one group to be FaithWeavers to help tell the Bible story. Explain to the FaithWeavers that they'll act along with the CD. If necessary, refer to the script on page 32. Assign the following roles:

ROLE	ACTION	PROP
David	pantomime writing in a book throughout the skit	none
Referee	act as described on the CD	none
The Jets, a soccer team	act as described on the CD	none
The Sharks, a soccer team	act as described on the CD	none

Have "David" sit at the side and pretend to be writing in a book. Have soccer players form two teams, the Sharks and the Jets.

Gather the entire group, and tell them that they're going to see a presentation based on the Bible.

PLAY 🎧 "Psalm Soccer Match" (track 2) on the CD. When the track ends, have your actors take a bow.

Hold up your Bible, and open it to 2 Samuel 5.

SAY The Bible tells us in 2 Samuel that David was a man after God's own heart. David counted on God in both good times and bad times. If you ask Jesus to be in charge of your life and begin a relationship with him, you can count on God to be with you all the time, too. If you want to know more about this, talk to your Circle leader or to me today. 

Key Verse

SAY Our Key Verse for today is Psalm 46:1, which says, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." This means we can turn to God and count on God when we need help.

Friends, let's have a great time and count on God! Go with God!



Discovery Centers Happen Now

Closing Celebration

Lead the Closing Celebration as suggested on pages 4-5. Affirm kids, and then close with this blessing:

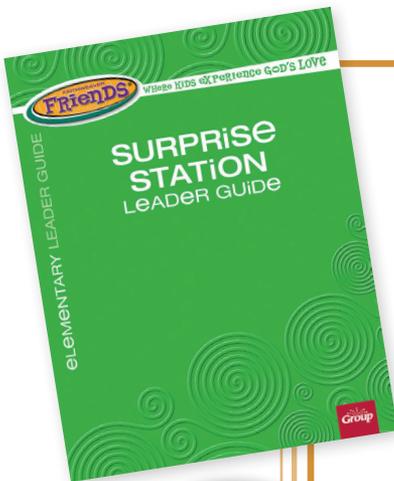
"Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:3-4).

NARRATED SKITS are on the CD, and kids just act along as the CD plays. Easy, fun, memorable!

SEE PAGE 32 for the "Psalm Soccer Match" drama script.

Tip

"We're a Circle of Friends" is the theme song for FaithWeaver Friends. Include this song in each week's opening. The lyrics to this song and the "Friends Birthday Song" are on pages 33-34 of the Director Quarterly Update.



1
WEEK

Count on This

Children will experiment with a math riddle.

You Will Need

- 20 paper clips per Circle*
(Or invite a 911 operator or a police dispatcher!)

*reuse each rotation

Bible  Point

Count on God

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

David was 30 years old when he was anointed king of Israel. He reigned for 40 years.

KIDS DISCOVER THE BIBLE POINT during each center in a fun, unique way!

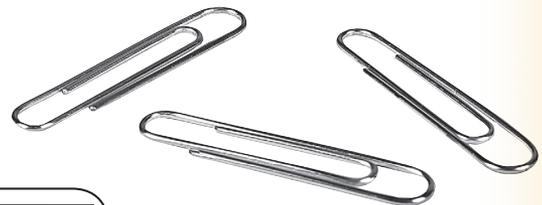
So kids can remember the directions when they show this experiment to others, photocopy these directions for them to take home.

$$\begin{array}{r} X \text{ amount of} \\ \text{paper clips} \\ +10-5-3 \\ -X+1=3 \end{array}$$

Permission to photocopy granted for local church use.

Tip

If Circles follow these directions, only three paper clips will remain each time, no matter how many paper clips a Circle starts with.



2 DO



1 SAY

David was king for 40 years. During that time, David learned he could  count on God no matter what. Let's do a math experiment in which we'll always be able to count on the results.

1 Have one person in each Circle place 1 to 10 paper clips in the center of the Circle. Have another child add 10 paper clips to this number.

2 Have a third child take away five paper clips and a fourth child remove three paper clips. Have the fifth child take away the number of paper clips his or her Circle began with.

3 Have the Circle leader add one paper clip. Ask all Circles to tell how many paper clips they have. Repeat this experiment several times, beginning with a different number of paper clips each time.



IN SURPRISE STATION,

anything goes—a game, a song, a snack, a craft! You'll delight kids with a new surprise each week! That makes it fun for kids...and you.

Invite a friend

Invite a 911 operator or a police dispatcher to share about the importance of being reliable. How do people count on them each day?

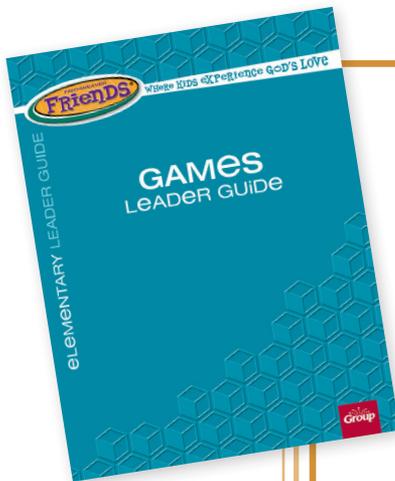
3 ASK

Have Circle leaders direct their Circles in discussing these questions:

- What can you always count on with this experiment?
- How does this experiment remind us we can count on God?
- Whom will you show this experiment to, and what will you teach that person about God?

AGE-APPROPRIATE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

help kids come to a deeper, more personal understanding of the Bible Point.



1

WEEK

Chin and Bear It

HIGH ENERGY

Children will count on a friend to help make this game easier.

Tip

If you have more than two Circles at your Discovery Center at a time, add another basket and 10 more tennis balls. Children may deposit balls in either basket, and a basket is dumped only when it has 10 balls in it.

Bible  Point

Count on God

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

David was 30 years old when he was anointed king of Israel. He reigned for 40 years.

You Will Need

- 10 tennis balls*
- large basket*
- CD player*
- FaithWeaver Friends Quarterly Drama, Sound Effects & Songs CD, Fall 2013, track 23*

2 ASK

Have Circle leaders direct their Circles in discussing these questions:

- What made the game difficult the first time we played?
- How did you count on the helper the second time?
- How can we  count on God to help us each day?

1 DO

*reuse each rotation



EACH GAME directly relates to the Bible passage and Bible Point.

1 Scatter the tennis balls around the room. Place the basket in the center of the room.

2 Explain that children will pick up the tennis balls under their chins, without using their hands, and drop

them into the basket. As soon as the basket has been filled, you will dump it out and have children continue. They'll see how many times they can refill the basket before the music stops.

3 Play "Love, Joy, Peace" (Galatians 5:22-23) (track 23) while children play.

4 Play again, but this time allow one person to use his or her hands to place the balls under the chins of others.

3 SAY

David counted on God to help him and guide him. We can count on God for these things, too.

Noteworthy Numbers



Children will use numbers to share how they have counted on God.

You Will Need

- markers*
- index cards

*reuse each rotation

1 DO



1 Have children sit with their Circles. Give each child a marker.

2 Have each child write a number on his or her index card that stands for some way God has helped

that child. For example, a child might write the number 3 because it was three days before he or she got over the flu. Or 5 might represent the number of days a child walks to school each week, and God has protected

the child all these days.

3 Have other children in the Circle guess what the number represents, then let the child explain why he or she chose that number.

2 ASK

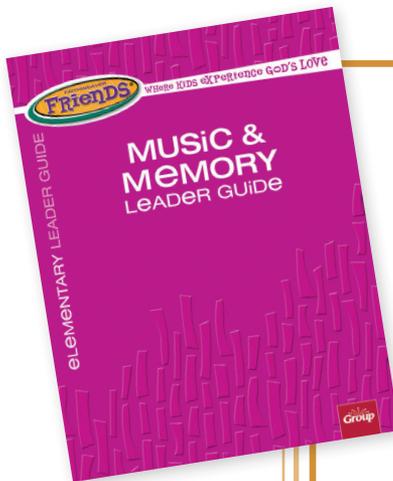
Have Circle leaders direct their Circles in discussing these questions:

- What number might help you remember to count on God, and why?
- Who would like to tell about the times God has helped you?

3 SAY

Our Key Verse this week, Psalm 46:1, reminds us that God is “an ever-present help in trouble.” This means that we can  count on God no matter what.

TWO GAMES of different energy levels are included each week to best suit your needs.



KIDS LEARN

Bible verses through songs and other fun activities—no rote memorization!

1

WEEK

Psalm 46:1

You Will Need

- small bottles of bubbles with wands for half the children*
- masking tape*
- newsprint*
- marker*

*reuse each rotation

Bible  Point

Count on God

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

David was 30 years old when he was anointed king of Israel. He reigned for 40 years.

1 SAY

Before children arrive, mark a square on the floor with masking tape. The square should be large enough for half the children to fit inside it. Write Psalm 46:1 on newsprint, and post the newsprint where it's visible from the square.

SAY Our verse is Psalm 46:1. It says, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." A refuge is a place where we're safe.

Let's let this square on the floor represent a refuge or safe place.

Whenever we're inside this square, we'll say our verse over and over.

Have everyone say the verse twice with you as practice.

2 DO

Give bubbles to half the kids. Explain that they can blow bubbles anywhere except in the square marked on the floor. Have children without bubbles stand as far from the square as possible. Explain that their goal is to get into the refuge square without being hit by bubbles. If they're hit by bubbles, they need to start over. Once they get inside the square, they're "safe" and should begin repeating the verse. After several minutes, have the kids switch roles.



3 ASK

Have Circle leaders direct their Circles in discussing these questions:

- What places give you refuge or safety?
- Who can you go to for safety?
- How is God a refuge?

4 CEMENT THE LEARNING

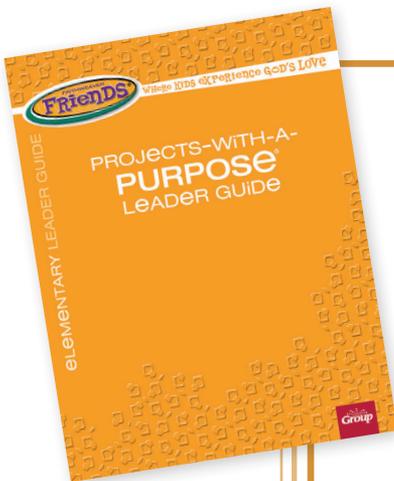
Have half the children stand in the square and repeat the verse, then have kids switch places. If time permits, ask children to sit with their Circles and discuss:

- Tell about a time you were able to **I** count on God.
- Is there ever a time you can't count on God? Why or why not?
- When do you count on God most?

Tip

Bodily-Kinesthetic Intelligence

When a lesson involves children emotionally, they remember more—and they remember longer. Tying this Bible verse to activities that kids embrace enthusiastically—bubble-blowing and dodging—cements it in their memories.



1

WEEK

Thank You, Fire Crew!

Kids will create and send thank-you postcards to local firefighters.

Bible  Point

Count on God

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

David was 30 years old when he was anointed king of Israel. He reigned for 40 years.

You Will Need

- Project Essentials*
- one 4x6-inch lined index card per child
- 1 Elementary Activity Stickers sheet per child 
- 1 postcard postage stamp per child 

*Reuse each rotation

Key Opportunity

Present a FaithWeaver Friends Service to Community Key to kids who complete this activity.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE SERVICE!

CRAFTS AND SERVICE PROJECTS are designed to drive home the Bible Point.

ACTIVITY STICKER SHEETS help make crafts and journaling fun!

1 SAY

No matter what kind of troubles we have, God is there. We can always  count on God to help us. One way God helps us is through the actions of others. Firefighters are one group of people who are always ready to help us. Let's make and send thank-you cards to them.

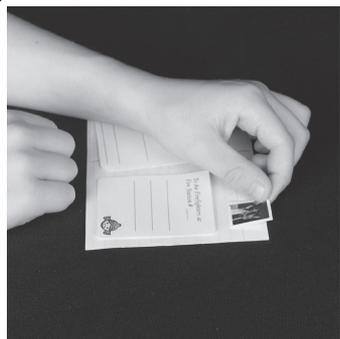
2 MAKE



1 Have each child draw a picture for a firefighter on the blank side of a 4x6-inch index card.



2 Have kids place the message and address stickers on the lined sides of their cards.



3 Have kids sign their names and include the name of your church or group. Provide each child with a postage stamp.

Tip

To make sure the postcards are sent, you might want to collect the finished cards, address them, and mail them yourself.

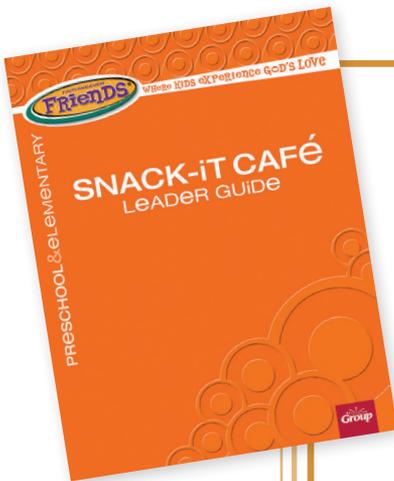
3 ASK

Have Circle leaders direct their Circles in discussing these questions:

- Why do you think firefighters risk their lives to help people they don't even know?
- What if we couldn't count on firefighters?
- What if we couldn't count on God?

THE SEE-IT DO-IT™ STYLE

makes being a leader easy—no more than 4 steps to a craft!



**PRESCHOOLERS
AND ELEMENTARY-
AGE KIDS SHARE**

this Discovery Center
for easy supply-
gathering.

1
WEEK

Sweet Words

Children will make edible notes of encouragement for one another.

You Will Need

- Snack Essentials
- 2 tubes of decorator frosting per Circle
- 1 large graham cracker per child



Bible  Point

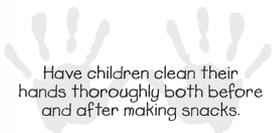
Count on God

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

David was 30 years old when he was anointed king of Israel. He reigned for 40 years.

1 SAY

In Psalm 37 David wrote about how he learned to  count on God. Even when people treated David badly, he knew that God would still be there. Let's make notes to encourage other Friends and to let them know they can count on God, too.



Have children clean their hands thoroughly both before and after making snacks.



2 MAKE



1 Have children talk together to think of phrases, such as “Count on God,” or pictures, such as hearts or crosses, that will encourage others to count on God.



2 Have children take turns using tubes of frosting to draw or write messages of encouragement.

Tip

Be sure to clip the ends off the frosting tubes before children arrive.



3 Let kids show others their edible notes of encouragement.

3 DO

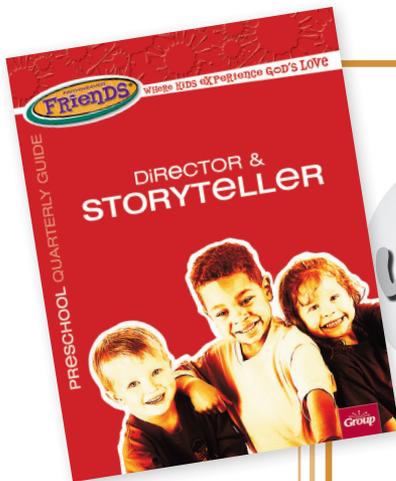
Let preschoolers eat their snacks. For elementary children, leave the snacks you’ve created for the next Circles to enjoy at Snack-It Café, and **SAY** Let’s enjoy the snacks our friends left for us!

4 ASK

Have Circle leaders direct their Circles in discussing these questions:

- How do you hope your note will encourage someone else at FaithWeaver Friends?
- What are other ways we can encourage each other to count on God?
- When do you most need someone to remind you to count on God?

TO GROW HEARTS THAT SERVE,
kids either create snacks for the next group or help prepare supplies for them.



David Becomes King

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

David was 30 years old when he was anointed king of Israel. He reigned for 40 years.

You Will Need

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet
- crown taped on Theo's head
- FaithWeaver Friends® Preschool Sound Effects & Songs CD, Fall 2013 (tracks 1 & 27)
- CD player
- Bible

Gathering Time

As the preschoolers arrive, welcome them individually.

LEADER: Hi, Friends! Are you ready to meet Theo today? He's so excited to see you. He told me that he's going to wear something new today. Before he comes out, everyone hug a Friend beside you and say, "I'm glad to see you!" (Allow time for kids to respond.) **Now let's all call Theo!**

Ask children to join you in calling: **Theo! Thee-o! Come out and play!** Play Theo's Playhouse Week 1 (track 1 on the preschool CD), and encourage children to sing along.

THEO: (Enters in a kingly manner with a crown on his head and with a haughty tone of voice.) *Greetings, greetings, everyone. I am the great Theo. I am king of all you see in this room. I am king of you, I am king of you, and* (indicating the leader) *I am ESPECIALLY king of you! You must obey me!*

LEADER: Theo, what are you doing?

THEO: *I'm being a king, just like King David. He's in our Bible story today!*

PRESCHOOLERS LOVE LEARNING
the Bible story with the help of Theo the FaithRetriever.

LEADER: Theo, you can't just decide you're a king and expect everyone to obey you. That's not how you get to be a king. And David didn't act like you're acting when he was king.

THEO: Why not? If you're a king, it's fun to make people do what you say.

LEADER: But how did David BECOME a king, Theo?

THEO: Well...Maybe he got a crown and started wearing it, and that made him a king.

LEADER: No way, Theo! Friends, help me say that again to Theo.

CHILDREN: No way, Theo!

THEO: OK, so maybe he won a talent show.

LEADER: No way, Theo! Friends, help me say that again to Theo.

CHILDREN: No way, Theo!

THEO: Was it because he was rich?

LEADER: No way, Theo! Friends, help me say that again to Theo.

CHILDREN: No way, Theo!

THEO: Then how could David become a king?

LEADER: That's easy, Theo. GOD made him a king. And David wasn't a king who walked around forcing everyone to obey him.

THEO: Really? What kind of king was David?

LEADER: He was a king who counted on God to help him.

THEO: Are you sure about that?

LEADER: That's right. Friends, join me in telling Theo, "That's right, Theo!"

CHILDREN: That's right, Theo!

THEO: That doesn't sound like any king I've ever heard of. How do you know David counted on God?

LEADER: It says so right here in the Bible, Theo. (Show children your Bible so they know what you're sharing is found in God's Word.)

THEO: Really? Well, if it's in the Bible, I know it's true! Tell me more!

LEADER: When David was a shepherd, he counted on God. When David became a soldier, he counted on God. David always counted on God! David knew he couldn't be a good king without counting on God. He needed God's help.

THEO: So you're saying that King David had to have help from God? Wow, he wasn't a very good king if he had to have help!

LEADER: David was a great king BECAUSE he counted on God's help! Theo, if you're gonna do the right thing, whether you're a king or a puppy, you need to  count on God! Good moms count on God. Good dads count on God. Good kids count on God. Good teachers count on God. Even good kings count on God! Friends, tell Theo, "If you wanna be good, count on God!"

CHILDREN: If you wanna be good, count on God!

THEO: Are you sure?

LEADER: Friends, tell him again!

CHILDREN: If you wanna be good, count on God!

THEO: And you're sure about this?

LEADER: Now say it loud, Friends!

CHILDREN: If you wanna be good, count on God!

LEADER: Now say it proud!

CHILDREN: If you wanna be good, count on God!

LEADER: Now say it long!

CHILDREN: If you wanna be good, count on God!

LEADER: Now say it strong!

CHILDREN: If you wanna be good, count on God!

THEO: OK! I think they've got it!

LEADER: The question is: Do YOU have it?

THEO: Yup! I know I have to count on God every day to help me make the right choices!

LEADER: Theo, you are the pup with stuff! And our Key Verse from the Bible lets us know we can count on God, too.

THEO: What does it say?

LEADER: Our verse is from Psalm 46:1, and it says: God is our help. This means that God is strong and is always around to help us, no matter what.

THEO: So it means we can count on God?

LEADER: It sure does! Let's say that verse together.

Lead children in saying the Key Verse together.

THEO: Well, I gotta go! Since I have the crown, can I make a kingly exit?

LEADER: Sure, just don't let it go to your head.

THEO: *I won't. Later, guys!* (Theo leaves majestically.)

LEADER: Theo learned that it's a good idea for everyone to count on God. One reason we can count on God is because he's so mighty and powerful. Let's sing a song about how great God is.

Lead children in singing "What a Mighty God We Serve" (track 27 on the preschool CD), then have children bow their heads to pray.

Briefly thank God for loving each of the children and leaders and always being willing to help us.

When you've finished praying, say, **It's time for you to get in your Circles of Friends and go to the Discovery Centers. See you next week!**

Before preschoolers leave, help them move into their small groups. Ask Circle of Friends leaders to distribute this week's Bible Friends Dogtags and help children attach tags to their Doggie Collars. The Dogtags will help kids remember today's Bible story as they travel through the Discovery Centers. When you hear the director's signal, dismiss Circles of Friends to their first Discovery Centers.



PICTURES OF THE BIBLE PASSAGE

on "Dogtags" are a fun, easy way to reinforce what preschoolers just learned.

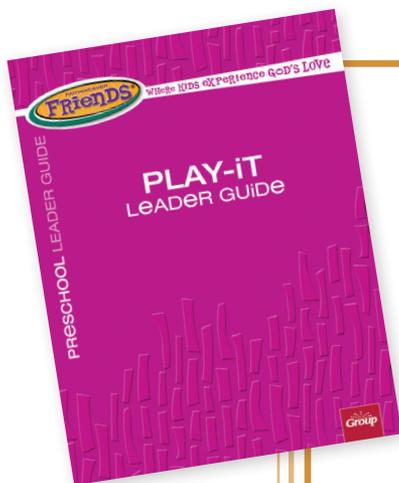
Tip

As they help kids attach the Dogtags, have leaders show kids how the picture illustrates that week's Bible story. At the end of the quarter, your kids will have collected fun, age-appropriate reminders of each week's Bible story.



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Week 1 • Preschool 20



1

WEEK

Reliable Relay

Preschoolers will play a running relay and learn to rely or count on each other the way David counted on God.

Bible  Point

Count on God

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

David was 30 years old when he was anointed king of Israel. He reigned for 40 years.

You Will Need

- large box*
- large beach towel*

*reuse each rotation



1 SAY

What does it mean to count on someone for something? (Allow children to respond.) How did David count on God? (Allow children to respond.)

When David became king, the people of Israel were fighting with each other. David needed help from God so he could help the people get along. David counted on God to help him, and he became a great king. We're going to play a Reliable Relay race and practice relying and counting on each other so that we can learn what it means to

 count on God.

2 DO



- 1** Have children find partners and line up with their partners. Children should form two lines, end to end, with a space for running in between the two lines.

SIMPLE BUT MEMORABLE ACTIVITIES reinforce the Bible Point.



Tip

If you don't have access to a large box, use something large and bulky for the children to carry, such as a big stuffed animal or a large ball.



2 Hand the pair at the front of one line a large beach towel. Place a large box on the beach towel. Tell children to pretend that the box is an important box they need to carry to the king.



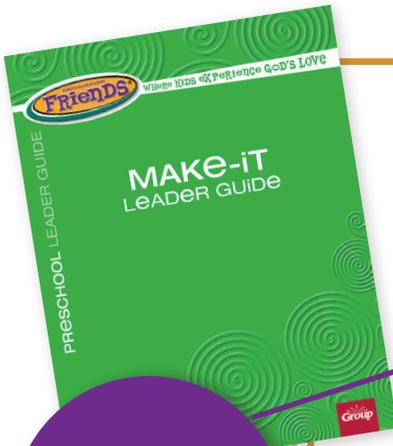
3 Explain that they will carry the box on the towel to the first pair in the other line. After handing it off, they will go to the end of the other line, high five their partner, and say, "I'm glad I could count on you! We can count on God, too!"

3 ASK

Have Circle leaders direct their Circles in discussing these questions:

- What was it like to carry such a big box?
- How did you count on your partner?
- When is it important to count on God?

KIDS APPLY
what they're learning to daily life.



1
WEEK

Crowning Glory

Children will create crowns to remind them that David was a king you could count on because he followed the God you can count on.

THE SUMMARY

of every activity lets leaders see at a glance what they'll be doing and why.

You Will Need

- Make-It Essentials*
- 1 hole punch*
- 1 colorful shoelace per child
- shiny or colorful poster board
- 1 roll of tape per Circle*
- 1 Preschool Activity Stickers sheet per child

*reuse each rotation



Bible  Point

Count on God

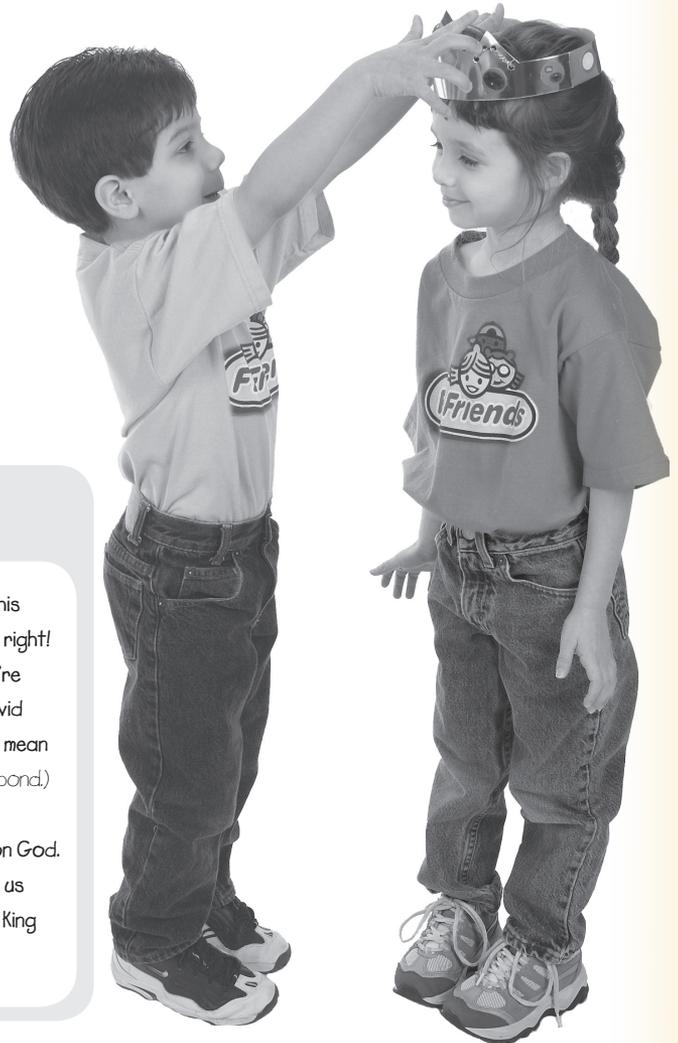
2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

David was 30 years old when he was anointed king of Israel. He reigned for 40 years.

1 SAY

Does anyone know what a king wears on his head? (Allow children time to respond.) That's right! Kings wear crowns on their heads. Today we're learning that God chose David to be king. David counted on God for everything. What does it mean to count on something? (Allow children to respond.) God was always there for David, and God is always there for us, too! We can  count on God.

Let's make special crowns to wear to help us remember that we can count on God, just as King David did.



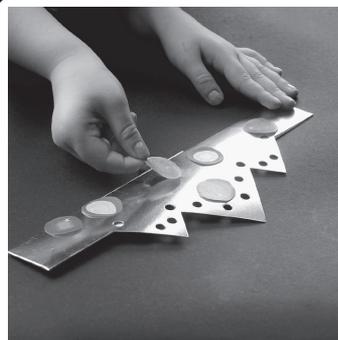
SIMPLE REVIEWS

of the Bible story during activities helps cement learning for preschoolers.

2 MAKE



1 Before children arrive, cut one crown shape per child and punch holes for lacing as shown.



2 Let preschoolers decorate their crowns with the jewel stickers.



3 Show children how to “sew” the shoelaces through the crowns. Remind children that King David wore a crown. Children may use crayons or markers to further decorate their crowns as time permits.

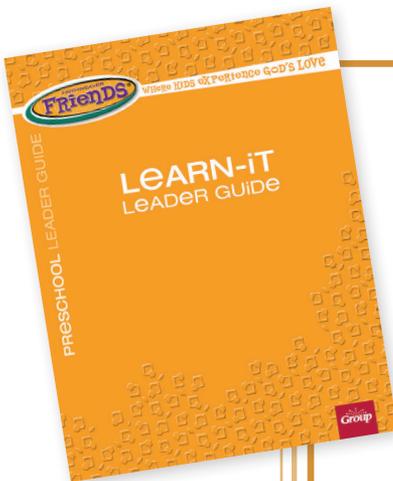
4 Have Circle leaders help children adjust the crowns to fit and secure them with tape. Have children wear their crowns as you lead them in a mini-parade around the room to show their beautiful crowns.

3 ASK

Have Circle leaders direct their Circles in discussing these questions:

- Why do you think God chose David to be king?
- Who are people you can count on, or who are always there to help you?
- How can you let God know that you are counting on him?

**ACTIVITY
STICKER SHEETS**
help make crafts and
journaling fun!



1
WEEK

King's Crown

Preschoolers will learn what it means to count on someone and how they can count on God.

You Will Need

- Learn-It Essentials*
- Bible-times costume or bathrobe*
- crown*

*reuse each rotation

Bible  Point

Count on God

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

David was 30 years old when he was anointed king of Israel. He reigned for 40 years.

LEARN-IT
allows preschoolers to explore the Bible passage again, through a variety of learning styles.



1 SAY

Today we're learning that we can  count on God, just as David did. David trusted God with all his heart, and God made him king. David counted on God to help him lead the people of Israel. Let's have some fun pretending to be David when he was chosen to be king. Imagine how he must have felt when the people placed the crown on his head! How do you think you would have felt? Remember that, just like David, we can always count on God, too!

Tip

Use the preschool CD, track 14 or one of the song tracks, as children walk in a circle. Pause the CD throughout the game for children to sit and take turns crowning one another.

2 DO

1 Have children form a circle. Have one child dress in a Bible-times costume or bathrobe and stand in the middle of the circle to be an elder from David's time. Give the child the crown. Start the music, and have kids begin walking.

2 Once the music stops, have kids sit. The "elder" will place the crown on another child's head to be King David. Have the elder hand over the elder's outfit and take the new king's spot in the circle. David then becomes the elder and chooses a new king.

3 BIBLE STORY

SAY Our Bible tells us that the people of Israel chose David as king because they knew they could count on him. When David was the captain of their army, they saw that David knew how to count on God when he needed help.

(Open your Bible to Psalm 37, and hold it up for children to see.) Our Bible has a book called Psalms. In this book David tells the many ways he learned to count on God. Here are some of the things David wrote in Psalm 37. Each time I say a sentence from the psalm, stand up and shout, "You can count on God!"

Be happy in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart. (Lead children in shouting.)

Commit your way to the Lord, trust him, and he will make your righteousness shine! (Lead children in shouting.)

The Lord delights in your ways; he will make your steps firm. (Lead children in shouting.)

ASK What does it mean to count on someone for something?

SAY Sometimes a family member will make a promise to you. When that person does what he or she said, you know you can count on him or her.

Let's play a singing game to show what we learned about David becoming king and

how he counted on God.

Have children stand in a circle, and lead them in the words and motions of the following song, to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It." Play track 14 on the preschool CD as children sing.

David said, "Be happy in the Lord!" Hooray!
David said, "Be happy in the Lord!" Hooray!
Wiggle your fingers and nod
Because we can count on God.
You'll be happy in the Lord and shout,
"Hooray! Hooray!"

David said, "We can trust in God!" (Lead kids in clapping.)

David said, "We can trust in God!" (Lead kids in clapping.)

Wiggle your fingers and nod
Because we can count on God.
You'll be happy in the Lord and clap your hands. (Lead kids in clapping.)

David said, "The Lord will guide your steps." (Lead kids in stomping.)

David said, "The Lord will guide your steps." (Lead kids in stomping.)

Wiggle your fingers and nod
Because we can count on God.
You'll be happy in the Lord and stomp your feet. (Lead kids in stomping.)

If you're happy that God loves you, do all three! (Lead kids in shouting, "Hooray!";

clapping; and stomping feet.)

If you're happy that God loves you, do all three! (Lead kids in shouting, "Hooray!"; clapping; and stomping feet.)

Wiggle your fingers and nod
Because we can count on God.
You'll be happy and, like David, do all three! (Lead kids in shouting, "Hooray!"; clapping; and stomping feet.)

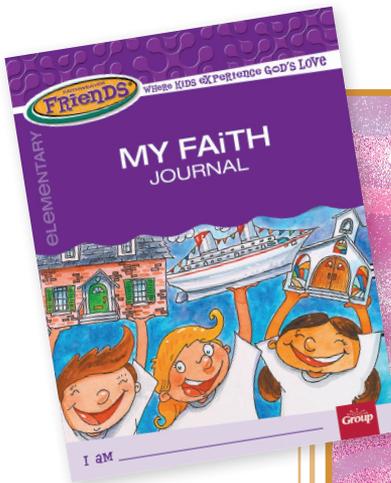
4 ASK

Have Circle leaders direct their Circles in discussing these questions:

- How do you think David felt when God made him king?
- What are you counting on God to do?
- What do people trust you, or count on you, to do?

KIDS APPLY

what they're learning to daily life.



Week 1 Count on God

2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37

I count on other people all the time. I count on my doctor to give me the right medicine when I'm sick. I count on my parents for food and love. And, for sure, I count on my friends!

David had to count on his friends for help, too. And he counted on God to show him what to do.

I wonder...What would happen if I counted on God to show me what to do?

Here's something I could use God's help with this week.



Let's Talk About...
Tell about someone you count on. Who is it? What do you count on that person to do?

"God is our refuge and strength, an

KIDS JOURNAL IN WORDS AND PICTURES—
even non-writers join in!



Please Don't Squeeze the Charmin

The average person uses 20,805 sheets of bathroom tissue every year!

This is how my face looks when I feel like nobody will help me.

This is what my face looks like when I remember I can count on God.

ever-present help in trouble."
(Psalm 46:1)

God can help me with anything! Here is something hard I need to do.

FROM YOUR FRIENDLY LEADER:

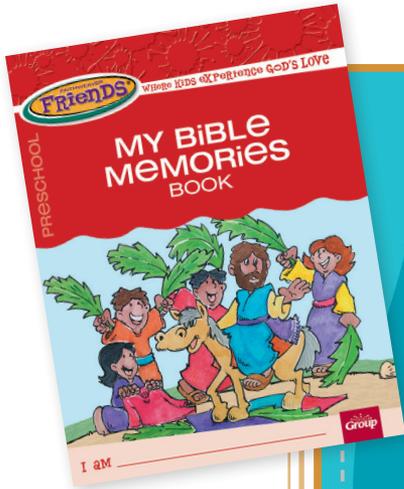
KIDS LOOK FORWARD each week to reading special personal notes from their leaders.

FOCUS ON ONE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

per quarter. Kids can receive a special key when they exhibit that "Fruit of the Spirit" quality.

DAILY CHALLENGES

(in the back of the journal) provide practical ideas for kids to live out their faith at home.

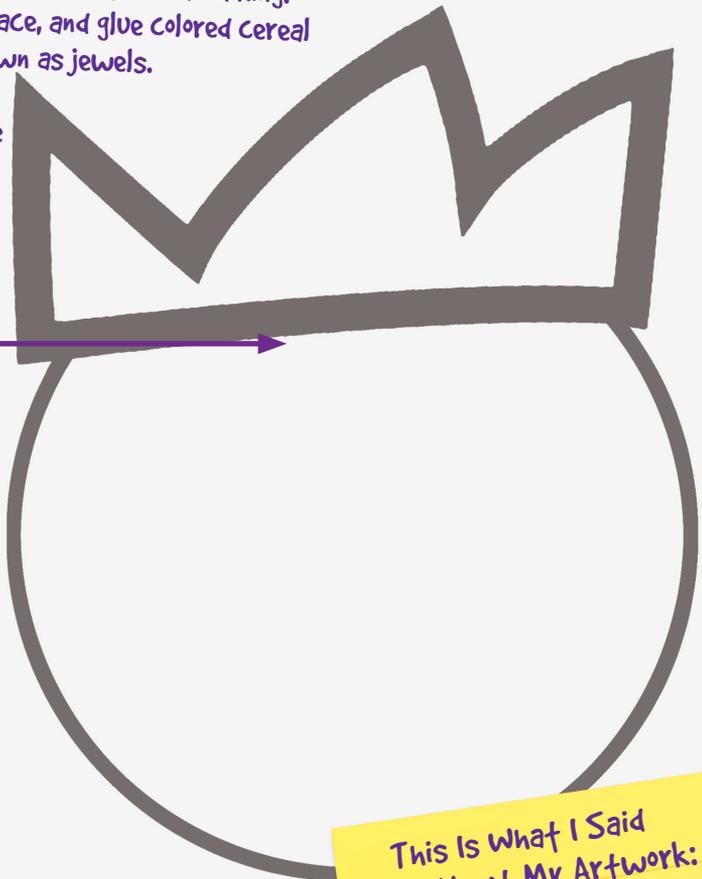


WEEK 1

BIBLE POINT

Count on God

David trusted God, and God made David king.
 Draw in your own face, and glue colored cereal pieces onto the crown as jewels.
 Use this picture to remind you that we can count on God, just as David did!



PRESCHOOLERS "JOURNAL"
 through drawing pictures.

God is our help
 (adapted from Psalm 46:1).



This is what I said about my artwork:

LEADERS WRITE
 what children say about their masterpieces for parents to see.

NAME _____

Count on God

In today's lesson, preschoolers learned that we can count on God. The Bible story from 2 Samuel 5:1-5; Psalm 37 demonstrates that, because David was faithful to God, he knew he could count on God to make him king as God had promised.

At today's Discovery Centers, the children...

- 📖 made crowns to decorate and practice lacing,
- 📖 learned what it means to count on someone as they ran a relay,
- 📖 made edible notes of encouragement, and
- 📖 had fun crowning one another as they remembered the story of King David.

Help your child know that we can count on God by teaching him or her about God's character. As a family, read regularly from a favorite Bible or collection of Bible stories that is preschool-friendly. As your child learns more and more about who God is, he or she will begin to be in tune with God's directions. Several times a week, turn off the TV and computer, and gather the entire family for a Bible story. Not only will this help your child learn to trust God for who he is, but it will also build family values and memories that will last a lifetime.



PRESCHOOLERS SHARE WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED

each week through back-to-back take-home journal pages.

KEEP PARENTS INVOLVED

with weekly outlines of the week's Discovery Center—and a brief activity specially designed for busy families to do together.

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COPIES OF
RECORDED CD
SKITS
make performances
super-easy!

The Dramas

TRACK 2:

Psalm Soccer Match (WEEK 1)

Cast of voices: Narrator
David
Announcer

Narrator: This is David. Wave to everyone, David! The Bible tells us that when David was 30 years old he became king. David reigned for 40 years.

David liked to write songs and poems. See, he's writing something right now! Let's listen to what David says in Psalm 37.

David: "Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart."

Narrator: If you're not sure what David's words mean, then pay attention because we're going to see these words put into action in today's soccer match. The Jets and Sharks are already playing. Let's tune in!

Announcer: That's right! The match has already started. The Sharks are really biting today. Just look at them chomping and snapping their teeth! And the Jets are on fire, too. See how they're zooming around the playing field! The Jets have the ball. They pass it to the right. They pass it to the left. They bounce it off their heads. But wait! The Sharks are using their hands! They made a goal! Look at them cheering for themselves! That's not fair! You can't use your hands in soccer! The referee doesn't seem to notice. Can you see the ref is waving to someone in the stands! OK, the ref has turned around and is watching the game again, so the Sharks put the ball down. I'm amazed that the Jets aren't complaining. They're playing as if nothing happened! In fact, they're smiling at the Sharks! And the Sharks are frowning and making mean faces back at them!

The Jets have the ball again, and they're kicking it from player to player.

And the Sharks are cheating again! They're grabbing the Jets' legs so they can't kick anymore! The ref is busy tying his shoes. One of the Sharks makes a goal again! That's the game, fans. The Sharks won.

Narrator: David knew this same kind of discouragement in his life. Sometimes the bad guys win. But David wrote in the psalm that those who trust in God and do good will eventually be rewarded. For example, see those Sharks over there? If we flash forward to

the future, we'll see that they kept on being mean and cheating. Several ended up in jail for cheating at their jobs or for stealing money. Look at their sad faces now. And the Jets? When we flash forward into the future we see they kept on trusting God and doing good. They've become doctors, teachers, and a few are even FW Friends leaders! Let's give them a round of applause for counting on God in all they do!

TRACK 3:

Family Friend (WEEK 2)

Cast of voices: Narrator

Narrator: Hey there, kids. I read a story in the Bible that I want to share with you all. You can read it yourself later in 2 Samuel, chapter 9. Right now I'm gonna tell you this true tale, and these FaithWeaver Friends are going to help me.

One of our friends will be King David. King David, why don'tcha wave to everyone here. King David was a great and famous king. Before David became king, he had a best friend named Jonathan. Jonathan died in battle, but David didn't forget Jonathan.

Years went by, and David remembered his friend. David got to thinking and scratching his head. David thought, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?" Saul was Jonathan's father, and David was wondering if anyone in that family was still alive—someone he could be kind to as a way of honoring Jonathan.

David and his helpers started their search. They looked high. They looked low. They finally found a servant named Ziba.

Ziba, shake hands with David and his helpers.

Ziba had been a servant to Jonathan's family. Ziba said, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet." Ziba told David that Jonathan's son's name was Mephibosheth. There's Mephibosheth sitting in a chair off to the side. Can you see him waving to you? It seems that when Mephibosheth was 5 years old he and his nurse (who was kind of like his baby sitter) were trying to escape from people who wanted to kill them. In their hurry, Mephibosheth fell as the nurse picked him up and hurt both his legs so that he was never able to walk again.

Mephibosheth had to be carried back to David's house. Let's wait while David, Ziba, and the helpers carry Mephibosheth to the front of the room.

When Mephibosheth got to David's house, he bowed down in front of David to show he wanted to honor David.

FaithWeaver Friends also works well with FaithWeaver NOW and KidsOwn Worship. All of these programs follow the same three-year scope and sequence and explore the same weekly Bible passages.

FAITHWEAVER NOW™

Weaving faith into today's families

Remember when kids didn't have so many distractions (sports, phones, video games)? And when families made church a priority and came every Sunday? You need a Sunday school that is **"NOW"** and not **"THEN."**

- **NOW** kids will love coming to Sunday school. Watch them grow in their relationship with Jesus!
- **NOW** busy families will grow together in faith. They'll explore the same Bible passage in age-appropriate ways.
- **NOW** you'll have a strategic plan to reach today's families.
- **NOW** teachers will thank you for choosing Group's new Sunday school. The perfect balance between low prep for their busy lives and foundational Bible lessons...WOW!

See the FaithWeaver NOW Sampler booklet for details!



Touching the heart of God, changing the hearts of children.

KidsOwn Worship didn't become the world's most fun, faith-filled children's church by following the status quo. Preschoolers and elementary children in harmony in the same room? Kids praising God in their own way? Lessons kids actually remember? KidsOwn Worship does all this and more.

Whether you've got five kids or five hundred, KidsOwn Worship fits your kids' church program. No need to worry about how many show up every Sunday. And it works perfectly with FaithWeaver NOW Sunday school, so you can reinforce the same Bible truths in a real, life-changing way.

It's simple: Kids praise God. Kids learn the Bible Point. And kids pray. Every week. All you need is one quarterly kit and you're all ready to help children grow closer to Jesus.

See the KidsOwn Worship Sampler booklet for details!

KidsOwn Worship.
It's church...
JUST FOR KIDS!



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