

Week One: A King for the Nations

Early Arrival Activity

(15 minutes or until all your students arrive)

Supplies Needed: Cardstock, scissors, markers, aluminum foil, hole punch, yarn, tape

In today's Treasure Story, the students will celebrate the unfolding of God's great rescue plan for mankind. They will discover that the wise men who were among the first to recognize Jesus as King were not even Israelites. God's plan has always been to save people for Himself from all nations.

The wise men were led to Jesus by a special star God had placed in the sky. As an introduction to the lesson, your students will make stars to hang in the classroom. Provide cardstock for your students and instruct them to draw stars on the page. Once your students have drawn a star onto the cardstock, tell them to cut it out.

They will then either color the star or wrap it in aluminum foil. Instruct them to use a hole punch to make a hole in one of the points. Provide lengths of yarn for them to tie through the hole and help the students hang their stars around the room. Allow them to create as many stars as time allows.

As they are working, explain that God used the light of a star to lead the wise men to Jesus. Jesus called Himself the light of the world in John 8:12. Encourage your students each time they look at their stars to remember that Jesus wants us to follow Him so that we do not walk in the darkness of sin.

Week One: A King for the Nations

Reinforcement Activity

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Stars from the Early Arrival Activity listed on the website

Teacher Note: For this game, you will need 12 of the stars the students created during the Early Arrival Activity. This game is similar to hopscotch.

Divide your students into two teams and line up the teams at one end of the room. Place six stars on the floor in front of each group. The first star should be about one foot in front of the first student in line. You will then place two stars side by side about a foot in front of the first star. Alternate between one star and two stars side by side until all of the stars are in line in front of the students (similar to a game of hopscotch).

When you say “go,” the first students in line will jump so that one foot lands on the first star. They will then jump so that one foot is on each of the two stars that come next and so on until they reach the last star. When they have finished, they will sit down at the opposite end of the room. Then the next student in line will begin to hop across the line of stars. The first team to have everyone sitting down will win the game.

Play as many times as time allows. As you play the game, remind your students of the importance of following Jesus, the light of the world. He came to lead people from all nations to His Father.

Week One: A King for the Nations

Treasure Verse Learning Activity

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Whiteboard, dry-erase marker

Today's Treasure Verse is Matthew 4:10b: "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." Write the verse on the board and lead your students in saying the verse one time. Begin erasing one word at a time as your students continue to read the verse. Eventually, the entire verse will be erased and your students should be able to say the verse from memory.

Week One: A King for the Nations

My Mission

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Whiteboard, dry-erase marker

The students' mission this week is to spend time thinking about Jesus. Remind your students that Jesus came to make a way for people from every nation to be close to God again. God promised to send His Son to rescue people from sin, and no one could stop God from keeping His promise. As we think about who Jesus is, what God did to bring Jesus into the world, and what Jesus has done for us, it should drive us to seek Him, worship Him, and tell others about Him.

Ask your students who Jesus is to them and write their answers on the board. Then ask them to think about one thing they would like to remember about Jesus. Finally, ask them to name someone they would like to share the truth about Jesus with this week. Lead your class in prayer by asking the Lord to give your students the courage to share the truth of Jesus with others.

Week Two: A Threat to God's King

Early Arrival Activity

(15 minutes or until all your students arrive)

Supplies Needed: Whiteboard, dry-erase marker

In today's lesson, your students will explore God's protection and sovereignty as they learn about how God rescued Jesus from an evil plot. They will discover that God can rescue us from sin and that He can be trusted to remain faithful to us during times of suffering. They will also be challenged to follow God wherever He takes them as they explore Joseph's obedience to God when he took Jesus and Mary to Egypt.

As a way of introducing the lesson today, your students will play a drawing game. Ask your students to imagine they only have 10 minutes to pack for a very long trip. What would they take with them? Invite one student at a time to the board. Ask them to whisper in your ear one item that they would take with them. Then time them as they draw the item on the board. The other students will have one minute to try to guess what the student is drawing.

Play until all your students have had at least one turn to draw. Tell your students that they will soon hear a story about Jesus' earthly father, Joseph. When Jesus was very young, an angel told Joseph that his family must quickly leave Bethlehem and flee to Egypt.

Week Two: A Threat to God's King

Reinforcement Activity

(15 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Trash can, paper, masking tape

Teacher Note: Before beginning this activity, set a trash can at one end of the classroom. Create four lines on the floor using masking tape at varying distances from the trash can. Assign point values to each line so that the values increase as the distance from the trash can increases. The students will answer review questions and earn points by tossing paper balls into the trash can.

Divide your class into groups of two to four students and instruct each group to come up with a team name. Then ask each team a review question from the list below. Be sure to give each team the same number of chances to answer a question.

If a team answers correctly, give each student on the team a chance to toss a crumpled paper ball into the trash can to win points for their team. Explain to the students that each team member can choose which distance they will toss the paper ball from. If the ball goes in, their team will receive the number of points associated with the line they threw from. The team with the most points at the end of the game will win.

Questions:

1. What book of the Bible was today's story from? (Matthew)
2. Where did the angel tell Joseph to flee? (to Egypt)
3. Why did Jesus have to go to Egypt? (Herod wanted to kill Jesus.)
4. How is God like a rock? (He is strong, He doesn't move in a storm, etc.)
5. Did Jesus ever suffer? (Yes.)
6. Why is there suffering in the world? (Suffering exists because there is sin in the world.)
7. Why didn't Joseph take his family back to Bethlehem when Herod died? (There are two possible answers to this question. Either one is correct. 1) He learned that Herod's evil son was king. 2) There was a prophecy that Jesus would come from Nazareth.)
8. What takes God by surprise? (nothing)
9. Who or what can stop God's plans? (nothing)

Week Two: A Threat to God's King

Treasure Verse Learning Activity

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Index cards, pens, tape, whiteboard, dry-erase marker

Teacher Note: Before beginning this activity, write the words of today's Treasure Verse on index cards. Write one word on each card and, if possible, secretly tape the index cards to the bottom of your students' chairs.

Today's Treasure Verse is Matthew 4:10b: "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." Write the verse on the board and lead your students in saying the verse several times. Then erase the verse and tell your students to look under their chairs and collect the index cards you have taped there. Time your students to see how quickly they can work together to put the verse in the correct order.

Week Two: A Threat to God's King

My Mission

(10 minutes)

The students' mission this week is to be ready to obey God when He calls them to do something. Ask your students to name some things God might ask them to do, such as telling a friend about Jesus, doing what their parents tell them to do, helping a friend, or praying for someone that is hard to like.

Ask your students, "What does it mean to be ready to obey? How do we get ready to hear God's commands?" Explain that we can get ready to hear from God by reading the Bible. The Bible teaches us what pleases God and what His voice sounds like. We can make ourselves ready by praying for the Holy Spirit to help us know His voice and by setting aside times to be quiet and still before God. During quiet times, we can listen more carefully for His voice. Encourage your students to do each of these things this week. Emphasize that we cannot obey God in our own power. We can only obey God through Jesus' power in us. Encourage your students to spend time with Jesus this week asking Him to help them obey God.

To help your students remember to be ready to obey when God calls them to do something, lead them in a game called "Read, Pray, and Listen." Ask your students if they have ever heard the phrase "Stop, Drop, and Roll" before. Ask for a volunteer to explain what stop, drop, and roll means. These three words tell us what to do if we ever find ourselves or our clothing on fire. Just like we need to have a plan to help us be ready in case of a fire, we also need to have a plan in order to be ready to hear and obey God's voice. Invite your students to stand up and practice stopping, dropping, and rolling if they would like. Next, remind them that when it comes to being ready to hear God's voice, they will need to read, pray, and listen.

Divide your class into three groups. Ask each group to come up with a way to teach "Read, Pray, and Listen" to the class. Suggest some ideas such as make hand motions, come up with a song or chant, or create a skit. Give the groups several minutes to develop their plan and then invite each group to teach the class to "Read, Pray and Listen."

Encourage your students to read the Bible, pray, and listen to the Holy Spirit this week as they prepare to hear God's voice. When they hear His voice, they can obey His commands through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Week Three: A Tempted King

Early Arrival Activity

(15 minutes or until all your students arrive)

Supplies Needed: A tray of candy, fruit, and crackers; whiteboard; dry-erase marker; paper; pencils; a cup

In today's lesson, your students will explore the temptation Jesus faced in the wilderness, and they will discover that Jesus succeeded where all others fail. As a way of introducing the lesson, your students will face their own temptation challenge. Bring in a tray with candy, fruit, and crackers on it. Do not tell your students what today's lesson is about. Tell them you wanted to bring a special treat for them. Allow your students to pass the tray around but instruct them to only take fruit or crackers at this time. Inform them that they will be allowed to have one piece of candy after the activity, but they should not take it off of the tray now. Turn your back to the class and write today's Treasure Verse on the board. After several minutes, collect the tray.

Next, tell your students that you are doing an experiment and need their help. Assure your students that no one will get in trouble and explain that the experiment started when you passed the tray around the classroom. Pass out scraps of paper and ask your students to write "yes" if they really wanted to take the candy even though you said not to. Tell them to write "no" if they did not even want to take a piece of candy. Tell them to write "took" if they actually snuck a piece of candy from the tray. Emphasize that they should not write their names on the papers. Then ask them to fold the papers and place them in a cup. No one will know their answers, so they should answer truthfully.

Once everyone's papers are in the cup, mix them up and begin to draw one answer at a time out of the cup. Keep track of the answers on the board. How many students were tempted to take the candy? Pose other temptation scenarios to your class and ask them whether or not they would feel tempted in each situation. Here are a few examples:

1. You find \$20 bill on the floor of a store. Would you want to keep it?
2. Some people you want to be friends with are making fun of another student. Would you feel like you should to make fun of the student too?
3. Your little sister just broke one of your toys. Would you be tempted to break one of her toys or to yell at her?

Discuss temptation and explain what it means. Temptation comes when you know what is right, but you have the chance to do what is wrong. Tell your students that everyone faces temptation. Being tempted is not a sin—even Jesus was tempted—but giving in to temptation is wrong. Jesus fought temptation with God's Word, and He did not sin.

Offer a piece of candy to all the students and thank them for helping you with your experiment.

Week Three: A Tempted King

Reinforcement Activity

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Construction paper, pencils, markers, scissors

To reinforce the truth that God's Word is a powerful weapon against the temptation to sin, your students will make a craft to help them remember how to use God's Word. Remind your students that Jesus quoted Bible verses to fight the temptations from Satan. Tell your students that the Bible is called a sword in Ephesians 6:17 and Revelation 19:15. The Bible is powerful, and God wants us to know it, memorize it, and use it to fight temptation and bring Him honor.

Give each student a piece of construction paper and a pencil. Instruct them to trace one hand onto the paper. Encourage them to spread their fingers apart to make it easier to cut it out later. Tell your students that there are five simple steps we can remember to help us learn God's Word. Instruct your students to write one of the following words on each finger on their handprints:

1. Listen
2. Read
3. Memorize
4. Think
5. Speak

Tell your students that we all need to listen to God's Word as it is being read and taught. We also need to read it for ourselves. We then need to spend time memorizing verses so that we will always have God's Word in our hearts. We need to spend time thinking about what it means as we hear, read, and memorize it. Finally, we need to talk about God's Word with others.

Instruct your students to write "Hebrews 4:12" on the palm of their paper handprints and then to cut them out. Encourage your students to look up the verse with their parents when they get home. They can keep their handprints in their Bibles as bookmarks to remind them of how to use God's Word, the sword of the Spirit.

Week Three: A Tempted King

Treasure Verse Learning Activity

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Whiteboard, dry-erase marker, chairs, digital music player, speakers

Today's Treasure Verse is Matthew 4:10b: "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." Write the verse on the board and ask your students to read it twice. Set up chairs back to back in two straight lines so that there is one less chair than there are students in the class.

For this activity, your students play a game of "Musical Chairs" to test their memory of the verse. While you play music, the students will begin walking around the chairs. When you stop the music, they will all try to sit down in one of the chairs. The student left standing will say the verse and sit down on the floor. Take another chair away and play the game again. Each time someone is left standing, all of the students sitting on the floor will join that student in saying the verse. Continue playing until there is only one student left sitting. See if the student who wins the game can say the verse by himself.

Week Three: A Tempted King

My Mission

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Rope, masking tape

The students' mission this week is to spend time reading God's Word each day and asking Jesus to help them fight temptation. Remind your students that everyone faces temptation. Even Jesus was tempted by the devil. However, Jesus was the only one to ever face temptation without ever sinning. Only Jesus can give us the power to overcome temptation.

Ask your students what weapon Jesus used to defeat temptation. He used the Bible! Emphasize the importance of reading the Bible and memorizing verses to use as we fight against temptation and sin. In Ephesians 6:17 and Revelation 19:15, the Bible is called a sword. God's Word is powerful. Knowing His Son and His Word is the only way we can overcome temptation.

Ask your students to imagine that they are holding on to a rope and trying to pull the rope toward them. However, on the other end of the rope is a much stronger person who is pulling the rope away from you. You pull as hard as you can, but you will never be able to pull harder than the other person. Instead, the more you pull, the more you end up being pulled toward the other person. Temptation is like this; if we try to stand up against it on our own power and strength, we will never win. Instead, it will pull us into sin.

Now imagine that the strongest person in the world comes behind you and begins pulling with you. What seemed impossible just minutes ago suddenly becomes much easier. When we fight temptation in the name of Jesus, through the power of His Word and with the weapon of prayer, God Himself gives us the strength to overcome the temptation. Remind your students that everyone will face temptation. The only way to stand against it is through the power of the only One who ever faced temptation without sinning: Jesus Christ.

To end this activity, invite all of your students to play a game of tug-of-war. Divide your class into two even groups. Place a line of tape on the floor and lay a rope across the line so that the center of the rope is on the line. The first team to pull a member of the other team across the center line will win.

Week Four: The Citizens of the Kingdom

Early Arrival Activity

(15 minutes or until all your students arrive)

Supplies Needed: Whiteboard, dry-erase marker

In today's lesson, your students will explore the Beatitudes as they discover what it means to live as members of God's kingdom. They will be challenged to examine their own hearts as they answer this question: "Am I a member of God's kingdom?" As a way of introducing the lesson, lead your students in a guessing game using words from today's passage.

Look up Matthew 5:1-16 in an ESV Bible and choose a word from the passage for the students to guess. On the board, draw a line for each letter in the word. Allow the students to begin guessing letters that they think are in the word. If they guess correctly, fill in the blanks that correspond with the letter. If they guess incorrectly, write the incorrect letter in another area on the board and draw one part of a bumblebee. As the students guess incorrect letters, draw a head, a body, two wings, three stripes, two antennae, and a stinger to complete the bee. If the students guess the word before the bee is complete, they receive a point. If the bee is completed before they guess the word, the teacher wins the point.

Tell your students that the words in this game are from the passage they will study during today's Bible Story Time. If the students have questions about the definitions of any of the words that you used, be sure to help them understand what the words mean.

Week Four: The Citizens of the Kingdom

Reinforcement Activity

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Black cardstock, scissors, yellow and white construction paper, markers, glue sticks

Teacher Note: If you have a class with a lot of younger students, you may want to create flashlight templates before class for the students to trace as they work on this craft.

To reinforce the truth of Matthew 5:14-16, which calls the people of God's kingdom "the light of the world," your students will make paper flashlights. Give each student a piece of black cardstock and ask them to cut out the shape of a flashlight. Then instruct them to cut and glue a piece of yellow construction paper to the end of the flashlight to make it appear as though the flashlight is on. Finally, tell them to write "Let your light shine" on a strip of white construction paper and glue it to the body of the flashlight.

Encourage your students to take their flashlight crafts home and place them somewhere they will see it each day. The flashlights can remind them to shine as lights for Jesus in a dark world.

Week Four: The Citizens of the Kingdom

Treasure Verse Learning Activity

(10 minutes)

Today's Treasure Verse is Matthew 4:10b: "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." Divide your students into two groups. Instruct the groups to line up across from one another. The first two students in each line will stand back to back in the middle of the classroom. They will begin to alternate saying one word of the Treasure Verse at a time. The first student to make a mistake will move to the back of the line, and the next student in his line will take his place and the new pair will start again from the beginning. If the pair is able to complete the verse without any mistakes, the next two students will come forward to begin again. Continue until each student has had a turn to play.

Week Four: The Citizens of the Kingdom

My Mission

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Flashlight, black tape

The students' mission this week is to ask Jesus to help them live as members of His kingdom. Encourage any students who have not yet become members of God's kingdom to talk to a teacher or parent this week about what it means to trust Jesus. Remind your students that God has called His people to be like lights shining in the darkness.

Show your students a flashlight. Turn off all the lights in the room and turn on the flashlight. Discuss what we mean when we say that Christians shine for Jesus. Christians show God's love and light to others by being kind to those who are mean, serving others, telling their friends about Jesus, etc. Just as a flashlight leads people safely through the darkness, so the light of our good works can lead others to God.

Warn your students that sin tries to dim and hide our lights so that we do not shine brightly for Jesus. Begin placing strips of black tape over the flashlight as you name different ways that we sin against God and one another. When your flashlight is completely covered, ask your students if the light will be able to help lead people at all. Emphasize that only Jesus and the Holy Spirit can give us the ability to live for God, so we need to depend on them to help us fight sin.

Remove the tape, turn on the lights, and lead your students in reading Matthew 5:14-16. Encourage them to ask Jesus to help them be lights that lead others to Him in a world that has been darkened by sin.

Week Five: The King at Prayer

Early Arrival Activity

(15 minutes or until all your students arrive)

Supplies Needed: Brown butcher paper, green construction paper, tape, scissors, markers

Teacher Note: Before class, use brown butcher paper to make a large tree trunk with bare branches and attach it to a wall. The students will make leaves to add to the tree.

In today's lesson, your students will explore the Lord's Prayer as they discover the importance and purpose of prayer. They will learn that the Lord's Prayer was given as an example. Through this example prayer, Jesus taught His followers how to come to God in prayer and what to pray for. The students will be encouraged to take what they learn today and apply it to their own lives.

To introduce today's lesson, your students will make a prayer tree. Give each student a few sheets of green construction paper and instruct them to draw and cut out leaves to add to the tree that you created before class. On each leaf, they should write something they can pray about or someone they can pray for. We can pray that others will come to know Jesus, and we can pray for our pastors, family, friends, the poor, etc. Encourage each student to make several leaves to add to the prayer tree.

As they are working, tell your students that Jesus knew how important prayer is. He even gave us an example of how to pray. Encourage your students to attach their leaves to the prayer tree and to pray for these people and situations.

Week Five: The King at Prayer

Reinforcement Activity

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Construction paper, markers, whiteboard, dry-erase marker

To reinforce the importance of daily prayer, your students will make prayer calendars. The calendars will give them ideas of things to pray for each day.

Ask your students to name things that they can and should be praying for. Write their ideas on the board. Then give each student a piece of construction paper. Instruct them to separate the page into seven boxes, rows, or columns and to label each with one day of the week. Ask your students to pick seven prayer topics from the list on the board and write one under each day of the week. Then let them decorate their calendars. Emphasize the importance of daily prayer and quiet time as you encourage them to take their calendars home and pray for the topics they listed each day.

Week Five: The King at Prayer

Treasure Verse Learning Activity

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Index cards, tape, pens

Teacher Note: Before beginning this activity, write each word of the Treasure Verse on an index card and hide the cards around the room.

Today's Treasure Verse is Matthew 6:10: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Do not read the verse to your students yet. Tell them that you have hidden index cards around the room and instruct them to go and find the cards. Encourage each student to find only one card and to bring it to the center of the classroom. Ask your students to work together to put the cards in order. To give them a hint, tell them that the Treasure Verse is from today's passage. Let them can use their Lord's Prayer booklets to help them, if needed. Once they have put the verse in the correct order, lead them in saying the verse several times.

Week Five: The King at Prayer

My Mission

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Plastic cups, string, paper clips, scissors

The students' mission this week is to spend time every day in prayer. Remind them that Jesus gave us an example of how we can come to God in prayer when He gave us the Lord's Prayer. Emphasize that this prayer is not meant to be read word-for-word every day, but it is a model for us so that we know how to approach God and what to talk to Him about. Remind your students that prayer is a conversation with God; it is talking to our Maker and King.

To help your students remember to talk to God this week, they will make telephones out of plastic cups and string. Before the students begin the craft, you will demonstrate how they will make one. As you make the example, engage them in the object lesson described below.

Hold up two plastic cups. Write "God" on one cup and your name on the other. Tell your students that the cups represent you and God. Without Jesus, the two cups cannot be joined together because sin separates all people from God. But if we believe that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sin and ask Him to rescue us from sin and death, He makes a way for us to come back to God.

Poke a small hole in the bottom of each cup with scissors. Thread a long piece of string or twine through both holes and tie the ends of the string to paper clips inside of the cups. The paper clips will keep the string from coming out of the cups. Tell your students that prayer is talking to God and listening to Him. When Jesus reconnects us to His Father, we can talk to God any time through prayer.

When we pray, we can follow Jesus' example and pray the way that our Lord taught us to pray. Invite two students to come to the front of the room. One student will put the cup to his ear and the other student will begin to speak softly into the cup. Make sure that they are holding the string taut. As they talk, wait a few seconds and then grab the middle of the string. The sound will be interrupted. Ask the volunteers to explain what happened when you held on to the string. Tell your students that if we are holding on to anger and refuse to forgive someone, it affects our prayers. God wants us to forgive others because He has forgiven us.

Invite two more students to come forward and let them begin to talk into the cups. This time, after a few seconds, instruct the students to let the string hang loosely between them as they continue talking. The sound will not carry if the string is not taut. Ask the student if they could hear one another as well when the string was loose. Explain that we have to work at growing close to God in prayer. Developing our prayer life takes work. Encourage your students to ask Jesus to help them so that they do not become lazy with their prayer lives. We should put effort into praying every day. Prayer is worth it because we can talk to the King of all kings anytime, anywhere.

When you have finished the object lesson, allow your students to make their own plastic cup telephones. Encourage them to share what they learned today with their parents as they try out their phones at home. Remind them to spend time in prayer every day this week.

Week Six: The Entrance to Christ's Kingdom

Early Arrival Activity

(15 minutes or until all your students arrive)

Supplies Needed: Empty toilet paper tubes, drinking straws, cotton swabs, clay

In today's lesson, your students will explore the end of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and discover that all of life comes down to a choice with two options. We can either follow Jesus or follow the world. They will also explore the parable of the wise man who built his house upon the rock and the foolish man who built his house upon the sand.

As an introduction to the lesson, your students will try to build structures that will remain standing when wind blows on them. Provide toilet paper tubes, drinking straws, and cotton swabs. Ask your students to make a structure out of the materials provided. For example, they can stack the toilet paper tubes up to make a tower, they might try to stand the straws up, they may use the cotton swabs to make a structure like a log cabin, or they may use a combination of all of the materials. Once they think their structure will remain standing in the wind, blow strongly on their structures to see if they remain standing. Most of the structures should fall.

Next, give the students each a lump of modeling clay and tell them that this time they will build their structures into the clay. After they have pushed their structures into the clay, you will blow on them again. This time, most of the structures should remain standing. Highlight the difference in the structures they built. When they were not in the clay, they fell over easily. When they were firmly built on a strong foundation, they remained standing.

The students will soon hear the story Jesus told of a wise man who built his house on a rock so that it stayed standing during a storm. In the story, there is also a foolish man whose house was destroyed because he built it on the sand. The story Jesus told is called a parable; parables are stories that Jesus used to teach His followers certain lessons. In today's parable, Jesus was teaching His disciples that they needed to build their lives on Him and on God's Word so that when hard things happen in life, they will not be destroyed.

Week Six: The Entrance to Christ's Kingdom

Reinforcement Activity

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Vanilla pudding, graham crackers, cups, spoons, napkins

Provide a fun snack to your students as a way of reinforcing today's lesson. Give each student a cup of vanilla pudding topped with graham cracker crumbs and rest a large piece of graham cracker in the pudding as well. Tell them that the snack represents the house of foolish man, which was built on the sand. Their spoons can represent the storms of life that we will all face. Remind your students that we need to build our lives on Jesus so that when hard times come in our lives, we will stand strong in Him and not be destroyed.

Review the fate of the foolish man's house; it was destroyed when the storm came while the house of the wise man stood firm. Encourage your students to eat their snacks and then lead them in singing "The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock" (www.youtube.com/watch?v=EawE0JwJcUg).

Week Six: The Entrance to Christ's Kingdom

Treasure Verse Learning Activity

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: Whiteboard, dry-erase marker, inflatable ball

Today's Treasure Verse is Mathew 6:10: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Write the Treasure Verse on the board and then instruct your students to sit in a circle on the floor. They will toss an inflatable ball back and forth around the circle. When a student catches the ball, he or she will say a word of the Treasure Verse. Repeat as time allows until your students can quickly say the verse from memory.

Week Six: The Entrance to Christ's Kingdom

My Mission

(10 minutes)

Supplies Needed: A small flat stone for each student, permanent markers

The students' mission this week is to think about what it means to build their lives on Jesus, the Rock and the only One who will never fail them or leave them. Discuss what it means to build our lives on Jesus. When we read the Bible, pray, go to church, talk to other Christians, and ask for help from the Holy Spirit, we learn how to trust Jesus and how to obey His Word. In this way, we build our lives upon His grace and truth.

Provide examples of storms your students might encounter in their lives. Their best friend may move away, a loved one could get sick, they may have to move to a new city, etc. Yet no matter what goes on in our lives, Jesus is always with those who have trusted in Him and will help us.

Discuss attributes of a large rock and compare those to attributes of Jesus. Both are strong and sturdy. Both provide a firm foundation, do not move during a storm, and will not be blown away. Give each of your students a small flat stone and a permanent marker. Instruct them to draw a cross on one side of the stone and write "Jesus is my Rock" on the other. Encourage your students to take their rocks home and place them in a location where they will see them every day. The stones can help them remember to ask Jesus to help them build their life on Him.