

# Living by Faith

## Theme: Eye on the Sky

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### EDITORIAL STAFF

**Editor in Chief:** Robin Johnston

**Associate Editor, Curriculum:**

Lee Ann Alexander

**Children's Editor:** Chris Anderson

**Primary Editor:**

Shannon Wilpitz

### WRITERS

Sharon Krnavek, Melinda Poitras,  
Jessica Tanderup, Brandy Toenges,  
Barbara Westberg, Shannon Wilpitz

### THEME DEVELOPMENT

Sharon Krnavek

### DESIGN

Layout: Dennis Fiorini

Artist: Anthony Mitchell

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**NOTE:** Before posting pictures of children, be sure to get parental permission.



Primary Teacher's Manual

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# THEME DEVELOPMENT

## Eye on the Sky

Consider the faith required to board a space shuttle headed for the uncharted vastness of space. Now consider the faith the early church exhibited as they headed into the uncharted vastness of an unbelieving world. Just as astronauts boldly go where no man has gone before, the early church boldly went where no man had heard the gospel before, and today's church is committed to keep the message going until all hear.

This quarter, students embark on a mission to develop their personal testimonies, to discover their place in the body of Christ, and to determine to stay the course of a Spirit-filled life. Keep your eye on the sky because these students are Heaven bound!

### Room Decoration

Attach the door poster (TRP) and invite students to an exciting space adventure.


Based on the size of your room(s) and the typical number of students, it may be necessary to limit decorations to the walls or bulletin boards to reserve floor space for students and class activities. For this reason, decorations have been divided into two categories: *basic* and *three-dimensional*. Not all 3-D suggestions require a great deal of space, so even if you are mainly interested in basic decorations, there may be something in the 3-D sections that would work in your room.

#### Teaching Wall 1: Instructional Wall

This wall contains the writing board. Keep all important items eye level with students. Anything higher than the writing board should be for show, not for interaction or teaching. Mount the New Birth poster (TRP) to this wall and refer to it each class period.

#### Teaching Wall 2: The Solar System

**Bible Connection:** The Lord said, "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool" (Isaiah 66:1). Solomon said, "The heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee" (1 Kings 8:27). Space is big, but God is bigger. Yet this big God knows every hair on our heads and hears our every prayer.

Cover the entire wall with black butcher paper. At the top, use large, white sidewalk chalk to write in giant letters: THE SOLAR SYSTEM. Print the Solar System Tracking art  which consists of thirteen pieces: the launch pad, Pluto, Neptune, Uranus, Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, Earth, the moon, Venus, Mercury, the sun, and the International Space Station. Arrange them on the wall in numerical order (as opposed to the sun in the middle with planets orbiting around it).

This wall is designed to interactively track attendance. On the first day, students put their attendance rockets around the launch pad. For each class thereafter, students move their rockets through the solar system to orbit each planet, the moon, and the sun. In the last lesson, students' rockets finally dock at the space station.

*3-D Variation:* Cut various sizes of Styrofoam balls in half and spray-paint them to look like the different planets, the moon, and the sun.

### Explaining Our Acronyms and Symbols

(TRP) = Teacher's Resource Packet

 = Download using code on TRP instruction sheet

(AP) = Activity Paper

BP = Bible Point

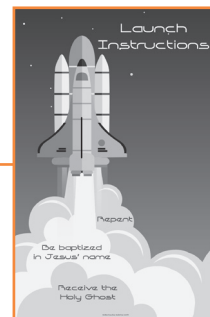
MV = Memory Verse

KiM = Kids in Missions

SMP = Special Memory Passage

Cover everything you can in the room with aluminum foil (shelves, books, pencil holders, supply caddies, cabinets, baskets, and so on). The room will be immediately transformed into an area that looks and feels like something from outer space.

Are you running short on time? Find senior saints, teenagers, or parents who want to help, and ask them to make copies and cut out items for lessons.



# Looking Ahead

Check all your lesson title pages now to see what supplies need to be gathered. Designate what activities require multiple copies, cutouts, or unusual supplies. Recruit volunteers to help with drawing, copying, or cutting.

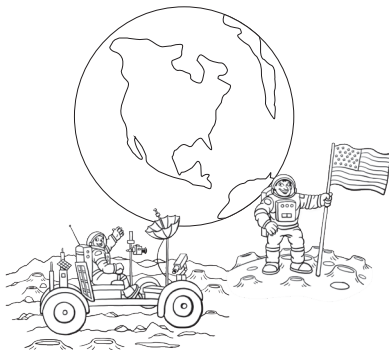
- Always create a sample of every craft activity.
- Always practice object lessons well before class to make sure your methods provide the desired results.

Before the quarter begins, tear apart the activity papers and sort the papers by lesson for easier distribution each week. Set apart the title page to send home with students in week 1. This will provide families with a copy of the unit memory posters for at-home study. Order one activity paper per student with a few extras for guests and for growth.

## Avoid a Panic Attack!

If you occasionally loan out your teacher’s manual or accidentally leave it at church, don’t panic. Before the quarter begins, follow the process on page 2 to download the entire manual to your electronic device. You can check supplies, study, and focus your prayers with a few simple clicks on your device.

NOTE: Some smartphones will not open zip files but will open PDFs. Save the zip files to your computer and then send the PDF to your phone.



### Teaching Wall 3: Journey to the Moon

**Bible Connection:** Imagine believing so much in a place you have never seen that you would dedicate your entire life to studying about it and preparing yourself to be able to go there one day. Such is the life of an astronaut longing for the moon and a Christian longing for Heaven.

Create a moonscape on the wall. Cover the top half in blue butcher paper. Crinkle up white butcher paper to create the moon’s uneven surface on the bottom half of the wall. Complete the look with theme art 📎 of a space rover, astronaut, and flag on the moon. Add the earth in the background.

*3-D Variation:* Set up an actual flag stand with your country’s flag or the Christian flag. Modify a tricycle to look like a space rover. Use aluminum foil to cover the tricycle and pieces of cardboard. Duct tape the cardboard along the sides to look like metal panels. Add wires and various electronic parts to it. Create a DIY astronaut helmet from a large plastic snack container (tutorials available online), and let this wall be a photo opportunity for your students.

### Teaching Wall 4: Mission Control

**Bible Connection:** Flight controllers are experts and constantly communicate with the space crew to ensure the safety and success of the mission. If we stay in constant communication with Jesus—the expert on our lives—and allow Him control of our mission, He will guide us safely and successfully home.

From the theme art 📎, use the mission control sign, a world map, and the left and right Mission Control Screens to create a mission control center. Mount the sign, top and center. Center the map underneath it with the screens and the unit MV posters to either side. Use black paper or a border to make a thick frame around the map and signs to create a multi-screen, computer-looking hub.


Mount the *Kids in Missions* map (TRP) to this wall as a reminder to pray for our missionaries. Personalize it by marking your location on the map and drawing dashed lines to other parts of the world that your church supports through missions giving.

Mount students’ memory charts (AP) 📎 on this wall.


*3-D Variation:* Create a mission control panel. Wrap a cardboard box in aluminum foil. Hot-glue various sizes of bottle caps, a calculator, a stopwatch, a small digital clock, and a kitchen timer around an old keyboard.

## Bulletin Board Ideas

### *Jesus' Love Is out of This World*

Cover the bulletin board with black paper. Using blue and green construction paper, create the earth on the bottom center of the board. Put students' pictures on astronaut bodies from the theme art  and float them through space.


### *Jesus Holds the Whole World in His Hands*

From the theme art , create the earth in Jesus' hands. Form the words around it: Jesus Holds the Whole World in His Hands.

### *Even the Stars Praise His Name!*

Cut out construction paper stars. Have students write on them words that praise God for who He is (e.g., Jesus, Almighty God, Holy Ghost, healer, Savior, deliverer, miracle worker, provider, friend, heavenly Father, and so on). Arrange the stars around the phrase: Even the Stars Praise His Name.

### *Faith Fuels Our Mission*

From the theme art , make a rocket ship with flames coming out the back. Make star cutouts from yellow construction paper. Have students write on them something that builds our faith (e.g., reading the Bible, praying, having godly friends, hearing preaching, listening to worship music, memorizing Scripture, testifying, and so on).

## Additional Theme Related Ideas

- Meteor Shower Review Questions: Wrap review questions, sword drill Bible verses, memory verse words, and more in aluminum foil to create meteors. Work individually or as teams to pick them up using tongs. Make it more challenging by requiring students to wear oven mitts.
- Come to class dressed as an astronaut or mission control specialist. Look up DIY costumes online for ideas.
- Have students make space-related Mother's Day cards: "Mom, you're out of this world!" or "Mom, I love you to the moon and back!" or "You mean the world to me!"
- Bring astronaut food to class for students to try.

## Offering Wormhole

Collect offerings in a wormhole. A wormhole is a theoretical passage through space and time that creates shortcuts for long journeys across the universe. When we give what little we have to God, it could be said that He creates a wormhole and sends those offerings on journeys all across the world to do His work.

Create the wormhole with a shoebox, black paper, duct tape, and a silver dryer vent hose. First, cover the shoebox in black paper. Cut a hole in the lid, large enough to insert the hose. Secure the hose with duct tape. The volunteer who collects offering will hold the top of the hose as students place their offerings inside and shake them down the hose.

Consider telling students all the various ways your church supports ministries around the city, the district, and the world. Help students realize that they are a part of the work of God through their giving.

Reduce wall ideas to a bulletin board should shared spaces prohibit the use of entire walls.



Maintain a prop box with a variety of scarves, sashes, and robes for use in various Bible lessons. A crown, fake food, play money, baskets, goblets, and tablecloths are good to keep on hand. Rotate props quarterly to keep them fresh and exciting.

Ask volunteers (youth, seniors, parents, and so on) to each sign up for a week to prepare a seasonal or theme-related snack, craft, or game for the class. Often there are people within your own congregation who would like to help but do not know how they can.

### Did You Know?

After accounting for all maintenance and supply expenses, it costs a church more to make boring gray-scale copies of the activity paper than it does to buy a full-color activity paper for each student. Churches may think they are saving money by buying one activity paper and making copies, but in reality it is costing them more!

Not to mention, copying the activity paper violates copyright laws. Permission is only granted to make copies for guests. Avoid the need to copy; order extras to allow for class growth and a few guests.

## Volunteers

Randomly selecting names as a way of choosing volunteers can help maintain order and expedite activities. This quarter, write students' names on glow-in-the-dark stars, place in a black bag, and draw one whenever a volunteer is needed. Make a few stars for guests. At the end of the quarter, give students their stars to take home.

## Home Connection

Each lesson ends with a few suggested methods to connect the lesson to the home. The Home Connection calendar (TRP) 📅 is meant for parents to hang on the fridge. It provides a unit overview, laying out each lesson's biblical text, Bible point, and life application, as well as suggesting a fun family activity to further stimulate discussion. Please note that all children's levels are included on one sheet, making it easy for parents of children across multiple age or grade levels to discuss the day's lesson.

In addition, a weekly family devotional 📖 is available to give to parents, or they can download it by going to the URL address at the bottom of each activity paper ([pentecostalpublishing.com/homeconnection](http://pentecostalpublishing.com/homeconnection)).

## Activity Paper

Order one activity paper for each student with a few extras for growth and potential guests. At the beginning of the quarter, separate the pages and gather them by lesson, placing them in thirteen lesson folders for easier distribution each week. The activity paper offers two activities to be used as an integral part of each week's lesson.

*New Memory Work Feature:* The unit MV posters are now printed on the back of the AP cover. Send this cover page home with parents the first week so families can study the unit memory posters throughout the quarter.

*Attendance Charts:* Near the back of the activity paper, find an alternate attendance chart if you choose not to do the wall idea on page 3. A digital version 📄 is also available for printing extra copies as needed.

*Memory Charts:* If you choose to incorporate the memory work from the EXPANDED section, find a memory chart for each student near the back of the activity paper. A digital version 📄 is also available for printing extra copies as needed.

This quarter, students will earn stars on a special faith mission space patch. Cut out the patches and mount them on the Mission Control wall (see page 4). Purchase foil stars for students to add to their patches each lesson.

## Facebook

Join our Facebook group: Word Aflame Primary Curriculum Teachers. Interact with editors and Sunday school teachers. Share tips and gather ideas. Post pictures of your class (with parental permission) and encourage others by posting what God is doing in your students' lives.

If you had an activity that was a smash hit, please share pictures and videos of your class in action. Spread the joy! Inspire others!

Note: Before posting pictures of students, get parental permission using the student information form 📄.

# KiDS Missions South America

**David and Yonda Schwarz, Regional Directors**

The region of South America consists of ten countries, eight of which have missionaries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia (San Andres Islands), Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela. We currently have no resident missionaries in Ecuador and Peru. Also Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana—while on the continent—fall under the Central America/Caribbean region. Most of the region lies south of the equator and includes a broad spectrum of climate differences. The countries closest to the equator are generally hot, while the southern countries experience seasonal changes like North America, only at opposite times of the year (when we have summer, they have winter).

## **Key Project: *School in Paraguay***

Joseph and Loretta Bir have been missionaries in Paraguay since 1988. Paraguay is a tropical, jungle country in the heart of South America. In some parts, a unique language called Guarani is spoken by the indigenous people. The country is picturesque with tropical birds, monkeys, red dirt roads, and the famous Iguazu Falls.

Years ago, the Birs provided food for children who could not attend school because they did not have birth certificates. In 2007, the Paraguayan government allowed the Birs to open a kindergarten and first grade to educate these marginalized children. Today they have a full-fledged school running from kindergarten through twelfth grade—the New Heights School, with a current student body of 290 students. We give God glory as entire families are coming to church as a result of this ministry.

School supplies are always needed to keep the school functioning. Sponsor a child for \$150.00 a year or help a child buy a school uniform for \$35.00. Mark the church check with the account number GMGP.6040.2108 for proper distribution.

## **Special Focus: *Sister Ivana Norris***

In 1987, Jeff and Ivana Norris were appointed as missionaries to Brazil. Jeff passed away in 2015, but Ivana continues the work, living on the Bible school compound. Sister Norris is president of the Bible school in Rio de Janeiro, pastors two churches, currently serves as district secretary, and has served as national ladies' president.

Sister Norris ministers and lives in an area surrounded by drug lords and gang wars. Although she has found people dead at the church's doorstep and gun shots are regularly heard throughout the night, this does not deter her from spreading the gospel. In the neighborhoods the word is out, "Leave the pastor alone," and, "Touch not thine anointed."

Though recently built, the Bible school's dining room, kitchen, dorm room, and men's bathroom still need much repair. Over fifty years old, the roof seriously needs to be replaced. This facility has sent out hundreds into the harvest and has hosted camp meetings, conferences, seminars, and retreats to enlist and equip men and women for revival in Brazil. Would you consider buying a ceramic tile for \$5.00 to help replace the roof?

We urge you to pray for the church of Brazil. Pray for a greater revival and that more missionaries would have a desire to move to Brazil to help in this work. Pray for safety and the protection of the Lord for Sister Ivana both at home and in her church work.

Mark the church check with the account number GMASMS.207687.0125 for proper distribution.

## **Missionary Facts**

- 16 missionary families or units
- 10 nations
- 12,750 churches and preaching points
- 813,110+ constituents
- 426 million+ souls

Please feel free to send a card or note to the missionaries of the South American Region or their MKs. Send all correspondence through Global Missions, 36 Research Park Court, Weldon Spring, MO 63304. They will include your notes with the next shipment going out to the missionary. See the map for a complete listing.

## **MK Profiles**

[www.upwithmks.com/pray](http://www.upwithmks.com/pray)

We are excited to present our missionary kid profile sheets. This tool gives you hands-on information regarding their nation, how to pray specifically for each MK, their picture, and even a great activity corner for children. Thank you for praying for our MKs and learning more about their nations. If you would like to become a prayer pal with our MKs, please contact Cylinda Nickel at [cylindanickel@gmail.com](mailto:cylindanickel@gmail.com).

## **Resources**

Check out these sites for additional facts and figures.

[nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com)

[geographia.com](http://geographia.com)

[factmonster.com/world.html](http://factmonster.com/world.html)

For prayer tools and resources to help your students become missions minded, visit [www.kidsprayer.com](http://www.kidsprayer.com).

## **Pray**

- For protection for the missionaries, the national workers, and the church. The area is troubled with drugs, violence, kidnappings, and robberies.
- For good health for our missionaries and short-term missionaries. Several countries in this region have high altitudes that cause many to be sick and have lung problems.
- For godly contacts in each nation and for doors to open to revival. Pray that God will bring the missionaries before the leaders of the land and give them favor.
- For revival to flourish in South America.



## Unit 1

Paul's Testimony

## Unit Aim

Students will determine and share their personal testimonies.

## Unit Memory Verses

Philippians 3:13–14

## Scripture Text

Acts 23:11–24 (Paul's Nephew)

## Bible Lesson Verse

Acts 23:11

## Bible Point

God uses us to complete His plan.

## Life Application

I will work for God.

# GOD WORKS THROUGH US

## CORE SUPPLIES

### Excite and Engage

**Welcome:** If you have designed the solar system attendance wall (page 3), print an attendance rocket (TRP) 📄 for each student. They will also need scissors, colored pencils or markers, and adhesive putty. Otherwise use the attendance charts (AP) 📄 with colored pencils.

Flashlights, space sound effects 📄, wormhole visual 📄, offering wormhole

**Opening Activity:** Outer space photos (TRP) 📄, fun sun facts (TRP) 📄

### Relate and Receive

**Bible Lesson:** Cut the following shapes from construction paper: circles, squares, rectangles, diamonds, hearts, triangles, and hexagons (to match the shapes in the activity paper). Each student needs one shape about 3 inches in size (big enough to write on). Put each shape in a paper sack (1 per student) and staple closed.

### Apply and Act

**Life Application:** Sacks and shapes from Bible Lesson, activity papers (page 1), pencils with erasers (1 per student)

**Prayer and Call to Action:** Shapes from Life Application, pencils

**Home Connection:** For each student, copy the unit 1 Home Connection calendar (TRP) 📄 and the lesson 1 devotion 📄. Separate the activity paper covers (AP) to send home. Prepare student information forms 📄 for parents to fill out as they drop off or pick up their children.

## EXPANDED SUPPLIES

### Worship and the Word

**Worship:** *Suggested songs:* “He’s Still Working on Me” by The Hemphills, “Worth” by Anthony Brown and Group TherAPy, “I Give Myself Away” by William McDowell, “If You Can Use Anything, Lord, You Can Use Me” by Ron Kenoly

**Memory Work:** On building blocks, use masking tape and permanent marker to write Philippians 3:13. Divide the words depending on the number of blocks you have.

Bible, unit 1 MV poster (TRP), scissors, Faith Mission Space patches (AP) 📄, foil star stickers (purchased)

### Reinforce and Review

**Activity Paper:** Activity papers (page 2), colored pencils

**Option 1:** Garden gloves, mini garden tools, plastic trash bags, glass cleaning supplies, broom

**Option 2:** Paper, paint, paintbrushes, paper towels, water bowls, art smocks (optional), newspaper to cover tables (optional), “My Redeemer Lives” by Nicole C. Mullen

**Option 3:** *Kids in Missions* map (TRP), computer or cell phone with internet access.

Items marked with (TRP) can be found in the teacher’s resource packet. Items marked with 📄 can be downloaded by following the instructions on the cover sheet in the teacher’s resource packet. Items marked with (AP) can be found in the activity paper.

# Teacher Devotional

Read Acts 23:11–24. Prayerfully consider what this passage says:

## About God

Throughout Scripture, does God only use spiritual superheroes like Elijah, Peter, and Paul? Consider the unnamed servant girl who directed Naaman to the prophet Elisha. How about the unnamed boy who brought the loaves and fishes? When God has a plan, He uses anyone who is willing, be they superhero or civilian.

## To You as a Teacher

While it is easy to assume the biblical men and women who were active in God's work fell into their greatness, nearly every story proves otherwise. Joseph was given a dream, but he had to work to fulfill it. Paul had to earn his learning before God could put it to even greater use. Abraham's story seems full of only highlights until you realize there are years of faithfulness in between most chapters. People are not preordained; rather, they chose to do God's work.

## To Your Students

God's work is not reserved for a select few. God wants to and is able to use us all. There is no age requirement or skill set that God requires. He calls and He equips. Once we understand that, it is only a question of where, when, and how He will use us. When we keep our hearts and minds open to God, He will keep opportunities to do His work open to us. Do not wait to work for God. He wants to use us to complete His plan now.

## CORE *(designed for a teaching period around 45 minutes)*

### EXCITE AND ENGAGE

#### Welcome

Make the room dark and play the space sound effects 🎧. Give students flashlights and tell them to investigate the room and the new décor. **Do you think there is light in outer space or do you think it is total darkness? Light in outer space depends on distance from the light source.** Refer to the solar system wall. **If you are on Venus, you will receive more light than if you are on Pluto.**

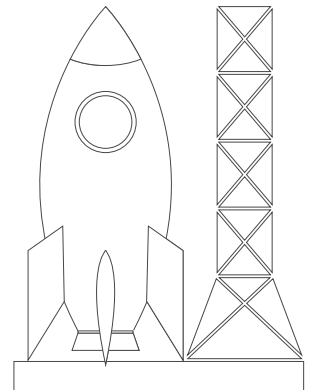
- **Who is the source of our spiritual light? What are some ways we can stay close to Jesus?**

Turn on the lights. **Coming to church is definitely one way we can stay close to the light.** Collect flashlights. If you are using the solar system attendance wall (page 3), distribute attendance rockets (TRP) 📄. Have students color them, cut them out, and use adhesive putty to mount them around the launch pad. Explain how students will move their rocket ships through the solar system until they reach the space station.

Show the wormhole visual 📄 and explain what a wormhole is. **A wormhole is a theoretical passage through space and time that creates shortcuts for long journeys across the universe.** Explain how the offering wormhole works. **When we give what little we have to God, it could be said that He creates a wormhole and sends those offerings on journeys all across the world to do His work.** Select a volunteer to collect offering and lead in saying the Life Application and Bible Point: **God uses us to complete His plan. I will work for God.**

#### Opening Activity: Out of This World Love

Pass around the outer space photos 📄. Ask students to express what they find most fascinating. Read the fun sun facts (TRP) and discuss how perfectly God planned the universe. **Do you ever wonder why God, who is powerful enough to create all of this, would care about tiny little humans? Do you ever wonder why He uses us to do His work when He is obviously able to do anything He wants all by Himself? What does it say about how much God loves us that we are the only creations He formed by His hands and in His own image? What does it say about how much we mean to God that He would choose to use us to carry out His plans?**



*Option:* Students color the launch pad on their attendance charts (AP) 📄.





## Bible Lesson Verse

“And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome” (Acts 23:11).

## Looking Ahead:

Retain any extra paper shapes for use in lesson 13.

## RELATE AND RECEIVE

*Access Prior Experience:* Ask students what they know about making (and changing) plans at a moment’s notice.

### Bible Lesson: Paul’s Nephew (Acts 23:11–24)

Give each student a bag containing a shape, but instruct students not to open them. (Students will open during Life Application.) Read the following account of how God used Paul’s young nephew to help him out of a dangerous situation. Each time students hear the name Paul, they pass their bags to the right.

**One night Jesus appeared to *Paul* (pass) and said, “Don’t worry. You have testified in Jerusalem, but now I need you in Rome.” The next morning *Paul* (pass) was making plans to follow God’s special assignment for him, but *Paul* (pass) did not know some angry people were making plans of their own for him.**

**More than forty Jews banded together and vowed not to eat or drink until they had killed *Paul* (pass). Those men went to the head priests and said, “We need you to send a message to the chief captain to bring *Paul* (pass) here tomorrow. Make up some story about needing him to answer questions. We’ll be waiting to grab him.”**

***Paul’s* (pass) nephew overheard their evil plan. He immediately went to tell his uncle. *Paul* (pass) called one of the centurions over and said, “Take this young man to the chief captain because he has something to tell him.”**

**The centurion did as *Paul* (pass) asked and said to his commander, “You know that prisoner *Paul* (pass)? Well, he asked me to bring this young man to you. He knows something that you need to know about.” Then the commander took *Paul’s* (pass) nephew someplace where they could talk privately.**

***Paul’s* (pass) nephew told about the plot to kill his uncle. He begged the chief captain not to let the council send for *Paul* (pass). The captain said, “Don’t worry. And don’t tell anyone about our conversation.” Then the captain called for two centurions and ordered them to gather some men together to help *Paul* (pass) get to Caesarea. The captain ordered two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, two hundred spearmen, and some horses for *Paul* (pass) to ride safely on his journey.**

***Paul* (pass) escaped a deadly plot against him thanks to a young man who wasn’t afraid to speak up and thanks to God who sends people into our situations at just the right times. Those evil men and their murderous plans didn’t stand a chance. God’s plans are always the winning plans. And the plans God has for us are just as great as the plans He had for *Paul* (pass).**

- **When the Lord first told Paul He wanted him to go to Rome, do you think Paul believed that would happen?**
- **Do you think Paul’s trust in the plan of God was shaken when he heard what those forty men planned to do to him?**
- **Do you think the way Paul went to Rome—with an armed escort—was what Paul had in mind when the Lord spoke to him?**

**God has a way of doing greater things and carrying out greater plans than we can even imagine.**

## APPLY AND ACT

### Life Application: I will work for God.

Instruct students to open their bags. Distribute activity papers and pencils (with erasers). This maze represents God’s plan. The shapes represent you and where God sees you in His plan. The shapes are different, but they are part of the same plan.




Discuss how God uses people within your own church—different shapes representing different talents and ministries but all working together for one plan. **God will use you to do His work, so don't worry if the way He uses you isn't the same way He uses someone else. That's all a part of the plan.** Students complete their mazes based on the shape they have. **Your goal is to follow only the path that crosses over your shape without going over anyone else's shape and without going back. Keep moving forward. Erase if needed, but keep trying.**

### Prayer and Call to Action

**God has a great plan for everyone in the world. He wants us to be freed from sin and to live a victorious life full of His Spirit. How do you see yourself fitting into that plan?**

On one side of their shapes, students write how they would like God to use them now. On the other side, students write how they would like God to use them in the future. **God sees our desires to work for Him, and He will give us exactly what we need to do His work.** Have students raise their shapes and their hands as you lead in prayer. Ask God to take their desires and match them with His. Ask Him to bless their efforts and help them always be willing to be used anyway He needs them to fulfill His great plan. End by thanking God that He chooses to use us.

### Home Connection

- For each student, send home a copy of the unit 1 Home Connection calendar (TRP)  and the lesson 1 devotion , or point out the URL on page 2 of the activity paper to parents so they can download it themselves.
- Send home the cover of the activity paper, showing parents that the back contains the memory verse posters for the entire quarter.
- Use the student information forms  to get contact information from parents. This will be used to establish a home connection throughout the quarter.
- Plan a time during the week for students and families to come together to beautify the church grounds. Explain how keeping the church looking nice is actually working for God. See option 1, This Is Ministry, on page 12.

## EXPANDED *(designed for a teaching period over 45 minutes)*

### WORSHIP AND THE WORD

#### Worship

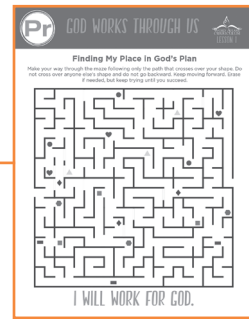
As a song for the quarter, learn the chorus of “He’s Still Working on Me” by The Hemphills. Another good song for the quarter is “Worth” by Anthony Brown and Group TherAPy. **The reason Jesus is still working on us is because He thinks we are worth more than something—we are worth everything.** This quarter help students realize their value to God. Of all His awesome creations in the universe, we are His greatest.

Lead worship with a heart of praise to God who did not have to create us, save us, or use us. Out of desire, He chose to do it all. Other suggested songs include:

- “I Give Myself Away” by William McDowell
- “If You Can Use Anything, Lord, You Can Use Me”

#### Memory Work: Philippians 3:13–14


Have a volunteer read the passage from the Bible while others follow along using the unit 1 MV poster (TRP). Concentrate on verse 13. **Paul said he hadn't achieved everything, but one thing he had achieved was forgetting the things from his past and instead reaching to the things ahead. When we receive the Holy Ghost, we are a new creature. We don't have to talk like we used to, think like we used to, or do what we used to. Our lives are changed for the better, and we can look forward with hope for a better future.**



Encourage students to take their shapes home and keep them as a reminder that God will use them to do His work.

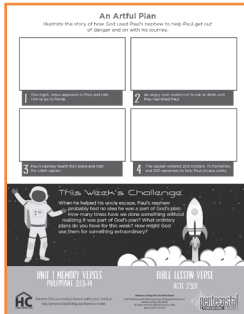
#### SHARE IT!

Sometime during the quarter, record audio or video of your students singing the chorus to “He’s Still Working on Me” and upload it to the “Word Aflame Primary Curriculum Teachers” Facebook group.

Send students home with the AP cover, which has the unit memory verses for the entire quarter on the back. Also consider sending students home with a unit 1 MV handout .



Retain the MV blocks for lesson 2.



Keep in mind that some students are allergic to direct contact with certain plants. Also be mindful of parents who may not want the child playing in the dirt in their Sunday clothes. See the Home Connection suggestion on page 11.

Distribute the prepared MV blocks. Have students build a tower, placing the words of the verse in order. Once the tower is built, choose a student to recite the entire verse and knock over the tower. Repeat to allow everyone an opportunity to participate. Just as everyone had to work together in order to complete the tower, God wants to use each of us to complete His plan.

Give each student a Faith Mission Space patch (AP) 🚀. Have students cut them out, write their names on them, and mount them to the Mission Control wall (see page 4). Then students add a foil star (purchased) to their patches.

## REINFORCE AND REVIEW

### Activity Paper

On the back of the activity papers, students illustrate the Bible story.

- **Box 1:** One night Jesus appeared to Paul and told Him to go to Rome.
- **Box 2:** An angry mob vowed not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul.
- **Box 3:** Paul's nephew heard their plans and told the chief captain.
- **Box 4:** The captain ordered 200 soldiers, 70 horsemen, and 200 spearmen to help Paul escape safely.

**Do you think Paul's nephew had any idea he was playing an important part in God's plan? I wonder how many times we have done something ordinary without realizing God was using it for something extraordinary. What ordinary things do you have planned for this week? How do you think God could use those ordinary plans for a greater plan?** Challenge students to keep their eyes open this week for God to use them in places they least expect.

### Option 1: This Is Ministry

With parental and church permission, take students outdoors to clean up flower beds and landscaping by pulling weeds and removing dead branches. Take small trash bags and collect debris that has blown onto the church grounds. Sweep the portico and clean glass doors. **Keeping the church looking nice is actually working for God. Ministry does not require visibility or recognition.** Share any behind-the-scenes work the ministry team and church members have done that your students may not be aware of. They may be surprised to hear that the leaders they see on the platform were cleaning the restrooms before service. **Everyone can be used for God if they are willing to do whatever is asked of them, even pulling weeds and picking up trash.**

### Option 2: Original Creations

Distribute paper and paint supplies. Play "My Redeemer Lives" by Nicole C. Mullen as students create their own pictures of space. Set aside the papers to dry, and then display them around the classroom after students have signed their original artwork.

### Option 3: Kids in Missions

Gather at the *Kids in Missions* map (TRP). Introduce students to the mission work in South America. See page 7.

Ask students to name some countries in South America. With supervision, let students search the internet for how many people live in that country, what languages they speak, and what the landscape is like. Discuss the importance of a missionary's work, trying to reach all those people with the gospel. Have each student call the name of a South American country in prayer, asking God to open the door for the gospel message to spread among the people.