

Lesson Plan

August 10th, 2025

This Month's Truth: I am Designed for a Purpose

Bible Story: Joseph in prison (Genesis 39–40)

Theme Verse: We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

Teachers rally with your team a few minutes before kids start to arrive: Rally is a pre-service time for you to be expectant and equipped before the kids start arriving. Go over the lesson and any ideas for the day! Pray over your space and for the kids that will be coming that they will be connected to the person of Jesus!

Celebrate: Share a story of seeing kids build connection and belonging.

Connect: What helps you stand strong in the face of temptation? How have you seen God's kindness when you have turned away from sin by turning to Him? (Share your own story, or invite volunteers to share.)

Read: Genesis 39:21-23

Share: This week, we are teaching kids they can look out through our Bible story of Joseph in prison. Joseph had difficult decisions to make, but he honored and trusted God in all he did. (Read Genesis 39:21-23.) Let's help kids learn that they can trust and follow God even when they do not know what is going to happen next.

Pray: Lead the group in prayer, thanking God for the team and inviting Him to work in big ways in the hearts of kids today.

Pre Service

Arrival time, please use either one of these options as kids arrive for the morning to build relationships with kids and encourage them to build relationships with one another.

Option # 1: Connection Questions

Use these questions to help you get to know kids as they arrive. Ministry happens best through relationships. By spending this time with kids at the beginning, you will be able to make stronger connections as you begin teaching about how God knows them!

- What was the best part of your week?

- What is one of your favorite subjects in school?
- If you were listening to nature sounds, would you rather listen to rain sounds or animal sounds?
- What is something daring or adventurous you might want to try some day?
- If you could shrink down and be teeny tiny, what everyday objects would you want to use to make a house?

Service

What To Do:

- **Teacher** Start 5-minute countdown **5 minutes prior to service start time**. The Countdown Video is meant to be played as a signal to transition to Large Group. The video is fun and interactive with opportunities for the kids to respond and cheer. Help kids engage and interact with the video by calling out what's happening, asking for their guesses, and cheering with them.

Teacher Opener: Hello, adventurers! My name is ____, and it is great to see you today! I can't wait to see what adventure awaits us today. On the count of 3 say, "Adventure Awaits!" 1-2-3! (Adventure Awaits!)

Bear, Campfire, Canoe

Game Rules:

1. Instruct kids to choose one hand motion per round: claws up like a bear, fingers wiggling and arms moving up and down to represent a campfire, or pretend to row a canoe.
2. Display a slide.
3. Direct kids whose motion matches the on-screen motion to move to one side of the room. Direct kids whose motions do not match the on-screen motion to move to the other side.
4. Play seven rounds. Encourage kids to keep track of how many rounds they win.

What You Say: Adventurers, if you are ready to play a game today, say, "Let's play" (Let's play!) Everyone, stand up for our game "Bear, Campfire, Canoe." (Allow kids to stand.) You will all choose a motion. You can be a bear with your claws up. Let me see your best bear! (Allow time.) You can be a campfire by wiggling your fingers and moving your arms up and down. Let me see your best campfire! (Allow time.) Or you can pretend to row a canoe. Let me see your best rowing! (Allow time.)

Community Big Kids

Looks like you are ready! I will count down from three. Once I start counting, you will choose a motion and start doing that motion. Once you choose, you cannot change! At the end of my countdown, you will see a picture on the screen of a bear, a campfire, or a canoe. If your motion matches the motion for the image on the screen, you will move to the left side of the room. (Point to the left side of the room.) If you did not match the motion for the image on the screen, move to the right side of the room. (Point to the right side of the room.) We will play several rounds, and each round you will have the chance to choose a different motion. Be sure to keep up with how many motions you get right as we play.

Ready? Go ahead and pick your first motion: bear, campfire, or canoe. (Count slowly) 3-2-1!

Leader Tip: Encourage leaders around the room to participate and help kids encourage each other, especially on the side of the room that did not guess the correct motion.

Bear! The screen shows a bear, if you also chose bear, head to the left side of the room.

Everyone else, to the right. (Allow time.) Great job!

Next round, here we go, pick another motion. (Count slowly) 3-2-1!

Canoe! Who is rowing down the river in your canoe? If you chose canoe, move to the left side. (Allow time.) Awesome!

New motions in (count slowly) 3-2-1!

Canoe, again! Tricky, tricky! If you matched with the canoe, head to the right. If not, head over to the left side. (Allow time.) Let's keep playing!

Here we go again! Make your choices in (count slowly) 3-2-1!

Oh! A nice warm campfire! If you were not wiggling like a campfire, make sure to move to the right side. (Allow time.) Are you keeping track of how many motions you have matched so far?

It's time for the next round! (Count slowly) 3-2-1!

Look! It's a bear. If you were doing the bear motion, move to the left side. (Allow time.) You are playing so well!

Let's play again! Are you going to stick with the same motion or choose another one? Ready?
(Count slowly) 3-2-1!

Look at that spiffy canoe! Go to the left side if you are rowing in a canoe. (Allow time.) Sweet!
All right, adventurers, last round. Make your choices! (Count slowly) 3-2-1!

Campfire! Everyone, head back to your seats. (Allow time.)

Keep It Going: Play additional rounds by continuing to show slides or simply by closing your eyes and calling out one of the motions.

What You Say: Great job, adventurers! Show me on your hands how many times you won. You all did an amazing job! When you are off on an adventure—like one involving a campfire and canoes, but hopefully no bears—the purpose is to have fun. Today we will talk about how we have a purpose too. God designed each of us on purpose and for a purpose. Let me hear you say, “I am designed for a purpose!” (I am designed for a purpose!)

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: A fun adventure kids can go on is the adventure of going to camp! Say, “That sounds fun!” (That sounds fun!) It sure does! Let's check out a video of a girl named Kenzie, who is having her own fun adventure at camp. Say, “Let's go!” (Let's go!)

Play Intro Video

What You Say: Hanging out around a campfire sounds like so much fun. But just like Kenzie learned, it is important to look out and be aware so we can be safe. When it comes to life, it is also important that we look out. Say, “I can look out!” (I can look out!) God designed us for a purpose, but sometimes we are faced with tough choices. We are not always sure about what we should do. But we can look out for those choices and choose to follow God rather than what other people say or even what we may want to do instead. Repeat after me: I can look out!” (I can look out!) “I am designed for a purpose!” (I am designed for a purpose!)

Worship

What You Say: Let's all come up front and worship together this morning!

What To Do:

- Turn lights off
- 2-3 songs of worship
- **Teachers and Small Group Leaders worship with the kids, modeling what it looks like to give God our praise. Stand in the front of the room, or next to the kids- but not in the back.**
- Dismiss the kids back to their seats when the songs are over

Bible Story Video

Transition script Teachers please use this to set-up the Bible Story and to encourage the use of Bibles in the classroom with the Kids: (Open the Bible to Genesis 39–40.) The Bible is God’s true message to us about Himself. Today’s Bible story comes from the book of Genesis. Everyone, say, “Genesis!” (Genesis!) Genesis is the first book of the Bible. Today’s story focuses on a man named Joseph. A man named who? (Joseph!) Joseph’s story is a real adventure full of ups and downs and lefts and rights. Say, “Adventure Awaits!” to get our Bible story started. 3-2-1! (Adventure Awaits!)

What To Do:

- Play the Bible Story
- When it’s over, turn lights back on and ask what the Bible story was about (as well as the questions below), have kids respond, take some answers from the **small group leaders** and share some yours as well, use the script below to help make the connection for the kids.

Questions to consider asking after the video:

- What is something that you learned about God from the video?
- What is something that you learned about people?
- What can you take away from the video?
 - How can you apply the lesson from today into your life?

Making The Connection Script: Wow, what an adventure! Joseph encountered different situations that could have caused him to doubt God’s plan. Joseph was on the lookout when he was faced with tough choices, but he stayed focused on God. Like Joseph, we are designed by God for a purpose. Say, “I am designed for a purpose!” (I am designed for a purpose!) We can also look out and be aware of temptations to doubt God and go our own way rather than following God’s way. Say, “I can look out!” (I can look out!)

Offering

What To Do:

- Play video explaining offering to kids
- Play offering time video while kids pass the bucket
- Ask a student(s) to come up and pray over the offering

Theme Verse Review:

Choose between the Video-Led Theme Verse option or the Host-Led Theme Verse option.

Theme Verse Motions: We are his workmanship, (Make both your hands into fists. Hit one fist on top of the other, and then switch and hit the other fist.)
created in Christ Jesus for good works (Clasp your hands together in front of your body.)
which God prepared ahead of time (Place your arms at a 90-degree angle with your right arm pointing up, then lower and lay your right arm on your left.)
for us to do. (Point your thumbs toward your chest.)
Ephesians 2:10 (Hold your hands out like a book.)

Option #1: Put the memory verse slide on the screen.

What You Say: We have a Theme verse that will help us remember that God designed us for a purpose. We can look out and keep our eyes on His incredible plan. Let's stand up and learn our Theme verse!

Repeat after me: (Use the motions above.)

We are his workmanship, (We are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works (created in Christ Jesus for good works)
which God prepared ahead of time (which God prepared ahead of time)
for us to do. (for us to do.)
Ephesians 2:10 (Ephesians 2:10)

Great job! Let's say the Theme verse again in whisper, like we are sneaking quietly through the woods on an adventure.

We are his workmanship, (We are his workmanship,)

created in Christ Jesus for good works (created in Christ Jesus for good works)
which God prepared ahead of time (which God prepared ahead of time)
for us to do. (for us to do.)
Ephesians 2:10 (Ephesians 2:10)

How about we say the verse again, but loud like we are trying to hear our echo through the forest?

We are his workmanship, (We are his workmanship,)
created in Christ Jesus for good works (created in Christ Jesus for good works)
which God prepared ahead of time (which God prepared ahead of time)
for us to do. (for us to do.)
Ephesians 2:10 (Ephesians 2:10)

Way to go! Say, “I can look out!” (I can look out!) This Bible verse tells us that God has already prepared good things (or good works) for us to do. God designed us for a purpose—to love and follow Him and help others love and follow Him too. We can look out when we have tough choices to make and remember to keep following God and His purpose for our lives.

Option #2: Play Memory verse video

What You Say: We have a Theme verse that will help us remember that God designed us for a purpose. We can look out and keep our eyes on His incredible plan. Let’s learn our Theme verse together.

Play Memory Verse Video

What You Say: Way to go! Say, “I can look out!” (I can look out!) This Bible verse tells us that God has already prepared good work for us to do. God designed us for a purpose—to love and follow Him and help others love and follow Him too. We can look out when we have tough choices to make and remember to keep following God and His purpose for our lives.

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: Repeat after me: “I am designed for a purpose!” (I am designed for a purpose!) God has a purpose for each of us. He designed us to trust and follow Him and make a difference by pointing others to Him. We can look out, knowing God loves to help us when we are faced

with tough choices. Say, “I can look out!” (I can look out!) I’m so glad we can join together on this amazing adventure God has for all of us! Let’s pray and talk to God in 3-2-1.

Closing Prayer: God, thank You that You have an incredible purpose and adventure for our lives. Help us look out for and follow Your good plans for our lives. When we are faced with tough choices, help us to look to You, knowing that Your purpose and plan is best. Amen.

Transition to Small Group Time: Split the kids into small groups. This can be done either by age, grade, or gender.

Small Group Time:

Option #1: Connection Questions

What You Say: Let’s continue our adventure and talk together about how God has designed us for a purpose!

1. When are times that you need to look out and be aware of things happening around you? (Allow answers, and share your own answer. Consider answers such as when you are crossing the road, when you are in a new place with new people, and so forth.)
2. What are different trail signs you may see if you are on a hiking adventure? (Allow answers.) Like trail signs warn us of dangers ahead, God helps us look out when we face tough choices so we can trust and follow Him. How can you pause and look out when you are faced with a tough choice? (Allow answers, and share your own answer.)
3. The Bible tells us God designed us for a purpose, and we can look out and trust Him when we are faced with tough choices. Let’s open our Bibles to Genesis 39:21 and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verse aloud, or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verse aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verse so everyone can follow along together.) Joseph was faced with a tough choice. Even when he followed God, Joseph was still sent to prison. But God was with Joseph and worked through Him. How can this encourage us when we are faced with tough choices or when things do not go our way? (We can trust and follow God, even when bad things happen.)
4. God sent His Son, Jesus, to make the way for us to have a relationship with Him. Jesus can help us when we are faced with tough choices. How can we look out, turn to God, and follow Him when we are faced with tough choices? (Answers may include: we can ask God for help to follow Him; we can ask God for help knowing what to do; we can

read the Bible and trust what it says; we can ask adults who follow God what we should do; and so forth.)

5. The Bible tells us that when we are faced with tough choices, we can look to God and trust His plans and purpose. What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)

Option #2: Adventure Pennant

Leader Prep: Set out supplies. Prepare an example craft.

1. Decorate the triangle with places you like to go and things you like to do.
2. Glue the wide part of the triangle to a craft stick for holding the pennant.

What To Do: Everyone, say, “Adventure Awaits!” (Adventure Awaits!) Today, we are going to create an adventure pennant. A pennant is like a flag that is used for decoration. When you are on an adventure, you can use a pennant to mark a special spot so, if you go somewhere, you can remember where you need to return.

Now, decorate your pennant with pictures of what you like to do and places you like to go. After you have decorated your flag, cut out your triangle, and glue it to your craft stick. Once the glue dries, you can wave around your adventure pennant.

Loud And Clear: Wow, your pennant flags look so good! Where are you going to put your flag when you go home? (Allow kids to answer.) That’s great! When you look at your pennant flag, you can remember that God designed you for a purpose! No matter where you go, what you are doing, or what choices you need to make, you can always know and remember that God loves you, He is with you, and He has an amazing purpose for you. Say, “I am designed for a purpose!” (I am designed for a purpose!)

Option #3: Activity Page

What To Do: This activity page helps us remember some big things we’ve learned about today. As you color and work on activities, talk to a friend about some of your favorite parts of our time together.

Leader Tip: Get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story, or remind them that like Joseph, we can’t see everything God is doing. But we can trust God and know that He designed us with a purpose. We are all on an adventure together, and we can look around and trust God.

What You Say: Know and remember that God designed you for a purpose. He loves you, created you, and sent Jesus so you can have a relationship with Him. Loving, trusting, and following God is an incredible adventure that starts when you look around and see what all God has done for you!

Close out in prayer:

What To Do:

- Ask for any specific prayer requests
- Pray with the group
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

What You Say: God, thank You that You have a purpose for our lives—to love and follow You and help others do the same. Thank You that You sent Jesus so we can have a relationship with You and that Jesus helps us trust and follow Your plan. Help us look out and follow You when we are faced with tough choices. Amen.

Dismissal:

Leader Tip: Work with your team to dismiss the kids in a fun, manageable, and safe way. As kids leave, make sure they have all of the crafts and papers. Share with the person picking them up something positive you observed today. Invite them back next week.