

TOTALLY TRUE!

We can count on
God's Word.

Micah 5:2, 4, 5
John 20:31

SESSION SUPPLIES

- ★ Bibles
- ★ envelopes
- ★ scissors and markers
- ★ two paper sacks
- ★ newsprint and tape
- ★ photocopies of the Bank On It! game cards (page 124)
- ★ photocopies of Proverbs 30:5 (page 127)
- ★ photocopies of the Power Page! (page 27)

MIGHTY MEMORY VERSE

Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Proverbs 30:5

(For older kids, add in Psalm 119:11: "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.")

SESSION OBJECTIVES

- During this session, children will
- ★ realize that God's Word is always true
 - ★ discover that the Bible is relevant today
 - ★ learn that faith and trust are related
 - ★ review how the Bible is organized

BIBLE BACKGROUND

Few things in life are abiding and ever-true. Situations change, feelings vary, and relationships shift. It's a life saving (and often sanity saving) truth to know that God and his Word are more powerful than the seas and more constant than the tides! Through God's promises, we learn about his amazing constancy and faithfulness . . . and the most wonderful promise of all—when God proclaimed the coming of Jesus! Micah 5:2 and 4 are a wondrous witness to God's truth, and through the birth of Jesus, we've learned that counting on God and his Word makes each of us wise!

Kids need a bit of security, something they can count on in their changing worlds. This lesson, which centers around God's Word and our reliance upon it, will guide kids to dis-

cover that reading the Bible and learning about God and his Word offer us stability, help, and assurance in ways relevant to their lives today—and tomorrow!

POWER FOCUS

Have kids stand in a circle and link elbows. Count off around the circle by saying “one, two, one, two” until everyone has a number. Then explain that you’re going to make a trust circle and that it requires everyone’s cooperation and trust to make it successful. Tell the number ones to lean a bit forward and the number twos to lean a bit backwards. This should create an even force in the circle so no one is thrown off balance.

As kids lean a bit farther either way, say: **Our trust circle is staying together because each one of you is trusting that the others won’t let go or lean in the wrong direction. Let’s return to a normal position.** When kids are upright again, have them reverse directions so the ones are leaning backwards and the twos are leaning forward. After several moments of balance, have kids return to an upright position and then sit in the circle. Ask:

- ★ **Was it easy or hard to trust others? Explain.**
- ★ **What would have happened if someone broke the trust in our circle?**
- ★ **In what ways is trusting in the strength of our circle like trusting in the strength of God’s Word?**
- ★ **Why is important to trust and have faith in the Bible?**
- ★ **How does trusting the Bible help us have faith in God?**

Say: **You know, trust and faith are close friends. When we trust something or someone, our minds have confidence that everything will be okay. When we have faith, our hearts and spirits are sure everything will be okay. And when we read God’s Word in the Bible, we trust that it’s true and that helps us have faith in God and what he does.**

Today we’ll explore trust and faith in God and his Word. We’ll learn that just as people trusted God’s Word in biblical days, we can trust God’s Word today. God made many promises in the Bible, and when we truly know



that God keeps his Word in the Bible, we begin to have faith in what God does in our lives. Let's read about a special promise in the Bible, then you can decide whether or not it was true!

THE MIGHTY MESSAGE

Ask kids to tell about promises they've made and if they kept their word. Encourage them to tell why they wanted to keep their promises. Then say: **When we make promises or give our word about something, we want to keep it to show others that they can trust us. God keeps his Word to us also because God wants us to trust him and have faith that he will do what he says he'll do!** Throughout the Bible, we read of people who learned to have faith in God and in his Word. Their faith grew when they compared what God had said with what God did.

POWER POINTERS

Offer kids a sense of stability by assuring them that God's truth never changes and that the Bible is relevant each day of our lives.

Long, long ago, God made a wonderful promise to his people. It was such a wonderful promise it might have been hard for the people to believe. Let's read that promise now. When you think you know if God faithfully kept his Word, put your hand over your heart. Read aloud Micah 5:2, 4, 5. Then ask:

- ★ Did God keep his Word? How do you know?
- ★ Who was the answer to God's promise?
- ★ How does it feel to know that we can have faith in God?
- ★ Why does God want us to have faith in him? trust his Word?

Say: **By reading the Bible, we know the things God has said, done, and promised to do. And when we see how God keeps his Word, we begin to have faith and trust in him. The people long ago hadn't lived long enough to see Jesus born into the world, so they had to have faith in God to keep his promise. We can't always see what God is doing either, but we can have faith that God is in control and will always keep his Word. Listen to what the Bible says about what God's Word can do.** Read aloud John 20:31, then ask:

- ★ In what ways does reading the Bible help us know God?
- ★ How does reading the Bible help us have faith in God? in his Word?

Say: **We can trust the Bible to be true, and we can have faith in God and his Word. That's a lot of wonderful power to help us be strong and do what's right, isn't it? Let's play a game to see where your faith lies as we learn more about putting our faith in God and his Word!**



Help kids use the blue bookmark ribbons from last week to mark Micah 5 or John 20 in their Bibles. If anyone has lost or didn't make a bookmark, let that child make one now using an 8-inch length of blue ribbon and the Bible icon from page 123. Remind kids to bring their Bibles and bookmark ribbons next week.

THE MESSAGE IN MOTION

Before class, photocopy the Bank On It! game cards from page 124. Make a copy of the page for every three kids. Cut the game cards apart and place each set of cards in an envelope. Write the word *true* on one paper sack and draw a question mark on a second sack.

Place the two paper bags at one end of the room and have trios stand at the opposite end. Hand each trio an envelope. Explain that you will be playing a game to decide if you can bank on the Bible as truth. Point out that when we have money, we deposit it in the bank. In this game, kids will deposit cards in bags. Say: **You have cards that tell things from the Bible. At the other end of the room are two places to deposit your game cards. One sack holds cards you think are true. The other sack holds cards you think are questionable or maybe even untrue. You'll have two minutes to read your cards and decide which bag to deposit them in. Choose one person at a time to be the depositor and do the running. Ready? Go!**

Help young kids read their cards one at a time, then let them decide where to deposit their cards. After two minutes, call time. Have kids gather around the sacks, then ask:

- ★ **Was it easy or difficult to decide if your cards were true or questionable? Explain.**
- ★ **How did knowing the cards had things from the Bible help? Did you believe them? Why or why not?**
- ★ **Where should all the cards be if they tell something from the Bible? Why?**

Turn the questionable sack upside down and let any cards spill out. Say: **Since our cards told things in the Bible, this sack should be empty. Let's put the cards where they belong!** Place any cards from the questionable

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sack into the true sack. Say: **Sometimes we may find things in the Bible hard to believe, but since they're in the Bible and are part of God's Word, we know that they are true.**

If there's time, use the following verses to show that the cards teach things from the Bible. For card 1, read Genesis 5:27. For card 2, read Genesis 18:11 and 21:3, 5. Read the following verses in corresponding order for cards 3 through 8: Numbers 22:28; 1 Samuel 17:4; Joshua 10:13; Mark 6:49; 1 Kings 18:38; and Exodus 14:21.

Say: **The Israelites may have had a hard time believing someone great would be born in Bethlehem to be king of Israel and reign over all the world. But those were God's words, and they did come to pass—just as he promised! The people back then needed faith to believe God's Word, and we can live by faith, too! God's Word is right and true, and we can rely on the Bible to build our faith in God. Let's review our Mighty Memory Verse and discover even more about how God's Word helps us have faith.**

SUPER SCRIPTURE

Before class, make photocopies of Proverbs 30:5 from page 127. (If you'd like, make copies of Psalm 119:11, the extra challenge verse, for older kids.) Make one copy for each child. Cut the Scripture strips apart, then cut each strip into five or six pieces to make a puzzle. Place each set of pieces in an envelope (or paper clip them together).

Ask for volunteers to repeat the Mighty Memory Verse, then repeat the verse two times in unison. Ask:

- ★ **How does it help our faith to know that God's Word is flawless and without mistakes?**
- ★ **In what ways is God's Word a shield for us?**
- ★ **How can we use God's Word to help us every day?**
- ★ **Why do you think God wanted us to know that his Word is perfect and will help us when we have faith in him?**

Say: **Proverbs 30:5 tells us that God's Word is true and without error. This verse also tells us that God is a shield to us when we have faith in him. Just think of the powerful help we have in God and his wonderful Word! When we're afraid, when we're angry, or when others are mean, we can feel good knowing that God is on our side and will shield us from those things.**

Let's have a bit of fun practicing our Mighty Memory Verse in a different way. In these envelopes are puzzles. Find a partner and see how quickly the two of you can reassemble the Mighty Memory Verse! Hand each child a puzzle and have partners assemble their puzzles together. As teams finish, have them read the verse aloud.

If you have time, play a variation with four teams. Have two teams each line up on opposite sides of the room. Then place four sets of the verse in the center of the room. When you say "go," have one player from each team race forward and find the first word to the verse, place it on the floor, then run back so the next player can go. Continue in this relay fashion until one team has completed assembling the verse and shouts the verse aloud.

When the puzzles are complete, say: **Put your puzzles in the envelopes and take them home to reassemble during the week. Time yourself and see if you can beat your time each day. It's wonderful to know that God's Word was true yesterday, is true today, and will be true tomorrow. What a wonderful feeling to know that we can count on God's Word any time! Let's offer a prayer thanking God for his Word and for being able to count on it for timely truth and heavenly help.**

A POWERFUL PROMISE

Before class, write the words to the song on page 26 on newsprint and tape it to the wall or a door for kids to see.

Have kids sit in a circle and ask for a moment of silence. Then say: **We've been learning that we can count on God and his Word to help us live and do what God wants us to do. We've also discovered that God's Word is always true— yesterday, today, and tomorrow, too. And we've learned more about our Mighty Memory Verse, which tells us God's Word is a shield when we count on God. Proverbs 30:5 says (pause and encourage children to repeat the verse with you), "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him."** (Repeat Psalm 119:11 if you have older kids.)

Hold up the Bible and say: **Because we know God's Word is truthful, we can count on God, and we can trust God's promises because they're part of his Word. Let's make our own promise to God. We can commit to honoring God by reading a bit of the Bible every day and by learning about God's Word. As we pass the Bible around the circle, we can say, "I**

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will read the Bible each day. You can count on me, God, as I count on you!" Pass the Bible until everyone has had a chance to hold it.

Say: **Let's close with a new song about counting on God's Word. We'll sing the song to the tune of "This Old Man." You can softly clap or snap in rhythm if you'd like.** Sing the following song through twice, chanting the chorus. For extra fun, form five groups and have each group chant a different line of the chorus, then all chant the sixth line together.

COUNT ON GOD!

Count on God and his Word—

It's the best thing we have heard!

Scripture helps us live right every day—

Know God's truth, and then obey!

Chorus:

1, 2 ... God's Word is true!

3, 4 ... Please use it more!

5, 6 ... Make Scripture stick!

7, 8 ... It's not too late!

9, 10 ... There's power when

WE COUNT ON GOD!

(Repeat first verse)



End with this responsive good-bye:

Leader: **May God's truth be with you.**

Children: **And also with you!**

Distribute the Power Page! take-home papers as kids are leaving. Remind kids to take their Scripture puzzles home and encourage them to keep their promises to God this week.

POWER PAGE!

SCRAMBLED SCRIPTURE

Use 2 Timothy 3:16 to unscramble these words and discover what God's Word does for us!

ginatech _____	raitnngi _____
bukreing _____	recortnicg _____

In God's Word, we read many names for God's greatest promise. Read each verse, then write the name for God's promise. Read the circled letters to discover the heart of God's promise.

- _____ of _____ (John 1:29)
- _____ of the tribe of _____ (Revelation 5:5)
- _____ (1 Timothy 4:10)
- _____ (Luke 1:31)

High & LOW

Use Proverbs 30:5 to help you fill in the missing high and low letters.

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