

# DIVINE DIRECTION

We faithfully follow  
God's Word and  
God's will.

Psalms 25:4, 5;  
119:33-37, 129, 130

## SESSION SUPPLIES

- ★ Bibles
- ★ scissors and markers
- ★ photocopies of the Faith Fudge recipe (page 32)
- ★ marshmallow creme
- ★ paper cups, plastic spoons, and chocolate syrup
- ★ cherries and graham crackers
- ★ clear balloons, photocopies of the figure on page 34, and curling ribbon
- ★ photocopies of Duo Directions (page 124)
- ★ photocopies of Proverbs 30:5 (page 127)
- ★ photocopies of the Whiz Quiz (page 36) and the Power Page! (page 35)

## 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

- ★ discover that the Bible teaches us
- ★ explore how God's Word helps us
- ★ realize that following God takes faith
- ★ express thanks for God's Word

## BIBLE BACKGROUND

Love ballads have been written in every form from haunting melodies and sultry sonnets to lilting eulogies and passionate plays. Men, women, children, pets, and even nature have inspired such loving works, but none can be as moving, passionate, or celebratory as the love poem written to God in Psalm 119! The psalmist not only speaks of the beauty of God's laws but extols the saving grace of God's Word and the divine truth that illuminates our lives when we love God's Word enough to follow and obey it. What a powerful poem of praise and love!

Help children know, love, and obey God's Word as they learn to find faith and trust in the Bible. As they explore the ways God's Word directs, teaches, and encourages us,

children begin to realize the joyous truth that, when we place our faith in God's Word, we also place our faith in God!

## POWER FOCUS

Before class, photocopy the Duo Directions handout from page 124. Make one copy for every two kids. Place the markers on a table.

Have kids form pairs and give each pair a handout. Explain that the object of this game is to complete the directions as quickly and carefully as possible. If you have young children, you may wish to read the directions aloud one by one. Give kids about five minutes to complete their tasks, then call time.

Gather everyone and compare answers and papers. Then ask:

- ★ **Was it easy or difficult to follow these directions? Why?**
- ★ **How do directions help us?**
- ★ **What are things we need or use directions for?**
- ★ **Do you think God gives us directions? How do we know what they are?**

Say: **We need directions when we have jobs to do or places to go. And it's important to understand and follow directions when they're given to us. We follow directions when we use maps, recipes, building plans, or directions for playing games. God gives us directions to follow and obey for living, too. He gives directions for how we're to speak and act, how we're to worship, pray, and treat others. Where do you think we find God's directions?**

Allow kids to share their thoughts, then say: **God provides many of his directions in the Bible. It takes faith to follow and obey God, but we need his careful directions. We can trust the Bible to help guide us and tell us the truth about God and his directions—and because the Bible is true, we can put our faith in it!**

Today we'll be learning that it takes faith to follow God and his divine directions. We'll also discover that the Bible is our trustworthy helper for following God. And we'll have fun following different directions as we learn more about how the Bible helps us be faithful followers. But



first, let's read from the Bible and explore how God's Word helps us faithfully follow and obey him.

## THE MIGHTY MESSAGE

Have kids use chairs to help set up an obstacle course. Then form pairs and have one person in each pair be the leader and the other person the follower. You'll need two Bibles for this activity.

Hand the Bibles to two leaders. Decide which pair will go through the obstacle course first, then have the leader hold the Bible in one hand and the follower hold the Bible in her hand and close her eyes. The leader must guide the follower safely through the obstacle course to the other end of the chairs. Then have the follower and leader switch places for the return trip. After the first pair completes the obstacle course, have them hand the Bible to another pair while the second pair goes through the course. When everyone has had a turn to be both leader and follower, ask:

- ★ How easy was it to follow the leader?
- ★ In what ways did faith and trust help you follow?
- ★ How is this activity like following God with the Bible as our guide?

Say: **The Bible helps us have faith to follow God through all our lives. God's words of wisdom, help, comfort, teaching, and love guide us through good times as well as hard times. Let's see what the Bible does for us and how it helps direct our paths through life.**

Read aloud Psalm 119:33-37, 129, 130 and then Psalm 25:4, 5. Invite kids to tell what things God's Word does for us. Answers might include teaches us, gives us understanding, helps us obey God, tells us what's good and right, and helps us avoid evil.

Say: **God's Word, the Bible, helps us faithfully follow and obey God. When we use the Bible as a guide and have faith in what it tells us, we stay in God's will. The Bible is like a map or a set of building plans that help us build our lives on God's Word. Without the Bible's divine direction, we would be lost! Just as we needed a guide to get through the obstacle course earlier, we need a guide to stay on the path**

### POWER POINTERS

Tell kids that Psalm 119 is the longest passage in the Bible! Challenge older kids to read through Psalm 119 in the next week to discover how the psalmist felt about God's wondrous Word.

to God—and the Bible is that faithful guide. No wonder the Bible is our precious gift from God! He knew we needed a set of directions to help us follow and obey him. So God put his precious Word in the Bible for us to read and use every day. You might say that the Bible gives us the recipe for obeying God! Let's see how well you follow directions as we prepare another kind of recipe and learn more about putting our faith in the Bible.



Help kids mark Psalm 119:33-37 in their Bibles, using the blue bookmark ribbons from last week. 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

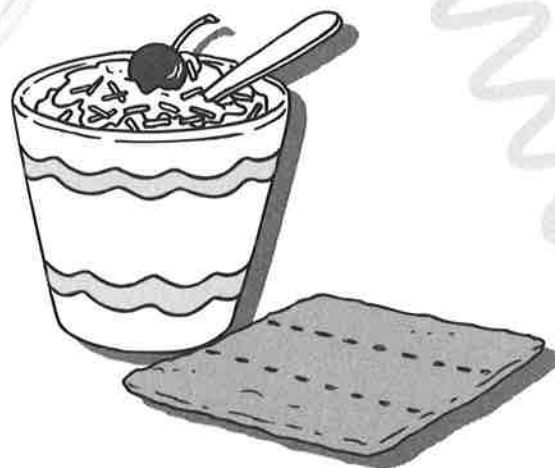
Before class, photocopy the recipe for Faith Fudge from this activity for each child. Set out paper cups, plastic spoons, marshmallow creme, chocolate syrup, cherries, and graham crackers.

Have kids form pairs or trios and hand each child a copy of the recipe. Say: **We use directions for many things, and recipes are one good place to see how we follow directions. You have the recipe for a delicious treat called Faith Fudge. Using your directions and the ingredients here, prepare your Faith Fudge but don't eat it until all of us are finished. If you finish early, help the others in your group finish making their treats.**

Circulate as kids work and make comments such as "When we follow the right directions, we have faith that things will turn out fine" and "Obeying directions is a good ingredient in faith!"

When the recipes are prepared, invite everyone to sit in a circle. As children enjoy their treats, ask:

- ★ **Did your treats turn out good? Why or why not?**
- ★ **What can happen if we don't follow a recipe carefully?**
- ★ **How is this like not following God's directions for us?**
- ★ **In what ways is the Bible like a wonderful recipe to follow?**



★ **How can we follow God's directions more closely?**

Say: **When we carefully follow a recipe, food is tasty. But if we don't follow closely, foods might turn out bad and taste awful! That's how it is when we don't follow God's Word. We may find ourselves in sticky situations that turn out badly! But when we follow the Bible's recipe for obeying God and living as his Word tells us, things turn out much better!**

**Our Mighty Memory Verse is a good recipe for learning about God's Word and our faith in it. Let's discover more about putting our faith in God's Word as we review our Mighty Memory Verse and follow a few more directions.**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **FAITH FUDGE** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**DIRECTIONS:**

- ★ Place four spoonfuls of marshmallow creme in a paper cup.
- ★ Place one spoonful of chocolate syrup in a cup.
- ★ Mix the marshmallow creme and chocolate syrup.
- ★ Crush one graham cracker over the top of the chocolate mixture in the cup. Take one graham cracker to enjoy with your fudgy treat.
- ★ Place a cherry on top of the fudge in the cup.
- ★ Thank God for faith in his directions, then enjoy!

**SUPER SCRIPTURE**

Before class, collect a clear balloon for each child and one extra. Photocopy on stiff paper the figure on page 34. You'll need one for each child plus one extra. Color and cut out the figure, then gently insert it into the balloon. As you tie the balloon, make sure the "stem" of the figure is included in the knot. Once the balloon has been knotted, adjust the figure so it stands upright, then add curling ribbon to the knot of the balloon.

Gather kids and repeat Proverbs 30:5 three times in unison. If you have older kids, also repeat Psalm 119:11 aloud three times. Then say: **Proverbs 30:5 is a powerful verse that is worthy of our faith! What is God telling us in this verse?** Invite kids to share their ideas, then say: **The word of God**

is flawless. That means it's without any mistakes and is completely true. And we're told that God's Word is like a shield to those who have faith in God. What does a shield do? Pause for responses, then ask:

- ★ In what ways is God's Word like a shield?
- ★ How can we use God's Word to protect, help, and encourage us every day?

Say: **God wants us to have faith in his power to help us.**

**Proverbs 30:5 tells us that God's Word helps and protects us like a shield when we have faith in God and his Word.**

**When we know God's Word, it's like having God's protection and help all around us!** Hold up the balloon you made earlier and explain that kids can make balloons to remind them that God's Word is like a shield all around us.

Help kids cut out their paper figures, insert them into the balloons, then inflate the balloons and tie the figures into the knots. When the figures are inside of the inflated balloons, use permanent markers to write "Proverbs 30:5" on the balloons. Help kids add curling ribbon to finish off their balloons.

Say: **It's important to place our faith in God's Word each day for help, happiness, and God's protecting love. What a wonderful feeling to know God's Word covers us! Let's share a prayer thanking God for his Word and for helping us put our faith in what God's Word says.**



## A POWERFUL PROMISE

Have kids sit in a circle and ask for a moment of silence, then quietly say: **We've learned today that it takes faith to follow God. We've also followed different directions and discovered that the Bible gives us the perfect recipe for following and obeying God. And we've worked on our Mighty Memory Verse, which teaches us to put our faith in God and his Word. 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."** (Add in Psalm 119:11 if you have older kids.)

Hold up the Bible and say: **Because we know God's Word is truthful, we can put our faith in the Bible. God promises that his Word is flawless, and that's a promise we can bank on! Let's make a promise of our own to God. Let's commit to relying on the Bible each day this week. As we pass the Bible around the circle, we can say, "I want to put my faith in God's Word daily."** Pass the Bible until everyone has had a turn. End with a prayer asking for God's help in learning and using his Word in our lives each day. Close with a corporate "amen."

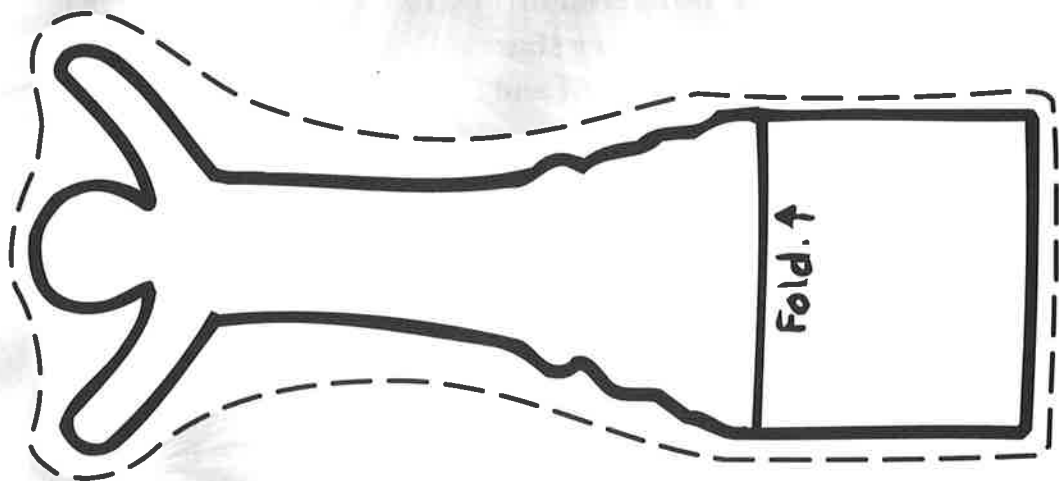
Before kids leave, allow five or ten minutes to complete the Whiz Quiz from page 36. If you run out of time, be sure to do this page first thing next week. The Whiz Quiz is an invaluable tool that allows kids, teachers, and parents to see what kids have learned in the previous three weeks.

Say: **Take your balloons home to remind you that when we put our faith in God's Word, it's like having God's protection and help all around us!** End with this responsive good-bye:

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

Children: **And also with you!**

Distribute the Power Page! take-home papers as kids are leaving. Thank children for coming and encourage them to keep their promises to God this week.



# POWER PAGE!

## PSALM OF LOVE

Write your own psalm praising and thanking God for his Word. Then read your psalm aloud to God before bed.

Dear God, your Word is \_\_\_\_\_; It helps me \_\_\_\_\_.

Your word makes me feel \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

I will learn your Word and \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you, God, for your loving Word.

## Cool-Jewel Clouds

The Bible is the perfect recipe for knowing, obeying, and following God. Here's another heavenly recipe to follow!

### You'll need:

- ★ whipped topping
- ★ strawberry yogurt
- ★ cookie pie shell
- ★ gumdrops

### Directions:

1. Fold yogurt and whipped topping in a bowl.
2. Spoon mixture into cookie crust.
3. Decorate the top of pie with gumdrop gems.
4. Chill pie for at least 2 hours.

### Eat & Enjoy!



# MIGHTY MEMORY VERSE

Write the letter that comes before the letters under the spaces. The first one is done for you.

E \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
F W F S Z X P S E P G H P E J T G M B X M F T T

\_\_\_\_\_  
I F J T B T I J F M E U P U I P T F X I P

\_\_\_\_\_. Proverbs 30:5  
U B L F S F G V H F J O I J N