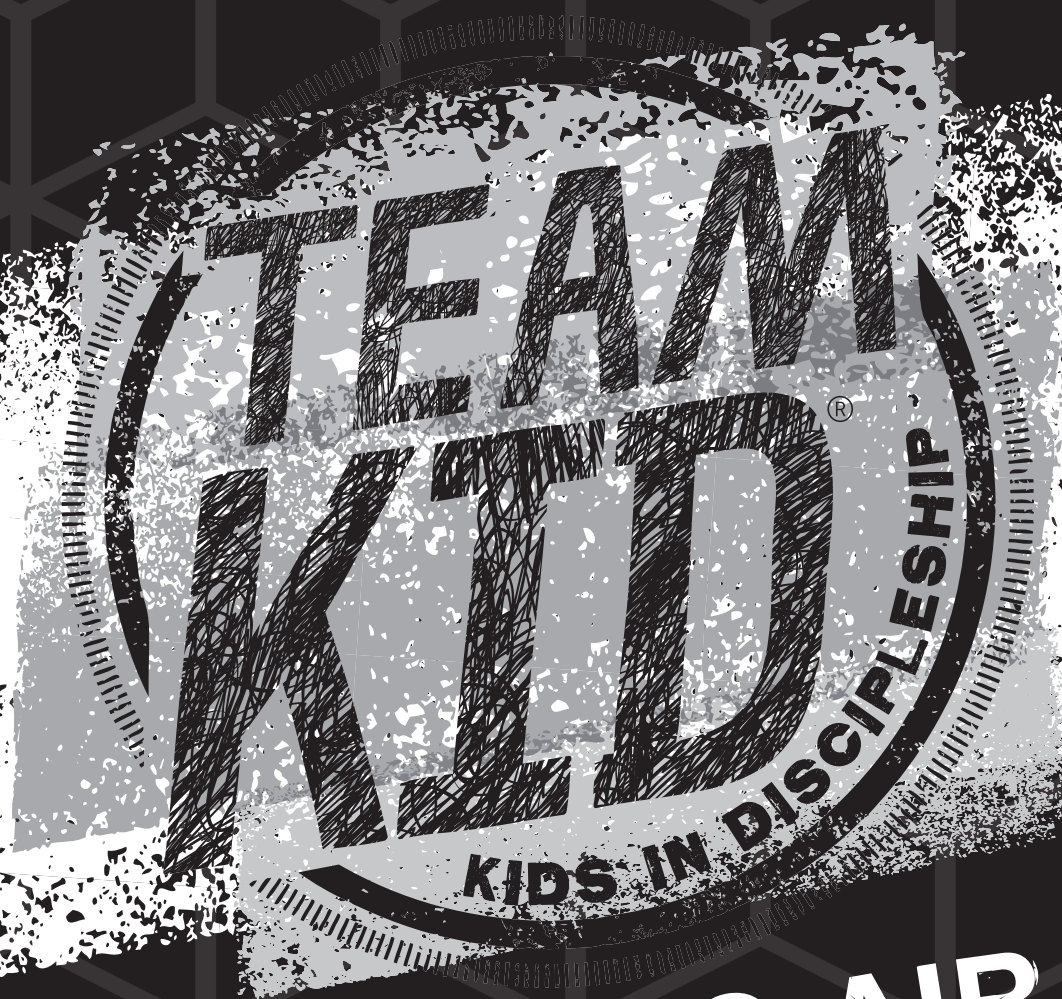


# CATCHING AIR



**LEADER KIT**

LifeWay | **Kids**



# CATCHING AIR

**LEADER GUIDE**

LifeWay | **Kids**

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LifeWay Press®  
One LifeWay Plaza  
Nashville, TN 37234-0172

ISBN 9781430059974  
Item 006104388

Dewey Decimal Classification Number: 268.432  
Subject Heading: Discipleship—Curricula\God\Bible—Study  
Dewey Decimal Classification Number: 248.82  
Subject Heading: CHRISTIAN LIFE \ JESUS CHRIST--TEACHINGS

Printed in the United States of America

Kids Ministry Publishing  
LifeWay Church Resources  
One LifeWay Plaza  
Nashville, Tennessee 37234-0172

Special Thanks to Our Writers:

Nic Allen, Cheri Green, Abbey Land, Kelly Mize, Kristen White, and Aaron Wilson.

We believe the Bible has God for its author; salvation for its end; and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter and that all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. To review LifeWay's doctrinal guideline, please visit [lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline](http://lifeway.com/doctrinalguideline).

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## DOES TEAMKID USE THE LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING?®

Absolutely! On the first page of each meeting, you will see both the Concept Area and the specific Level of Biblical Learning that session will cover for Younger Kids, Middle Kids, and Preteens. For easy reference, see below for the Concept Areas covered in Catching Air.

**GOD**  
Meetings 1-6

**PEOPLE**  
Meetings 7-12

**BIBLE**  
Meetings 13-18

**JESUS**  
Meetings 19-24

**CHURCH**  
Meetings 25-30

**COMMUNITY & WORLD**  
Meetings 31-36

What are the levels of biblical learning? *Levels of Biblical Learning* covers 10 biblical concept areas that children can learn as they study God's Word. The concept areas are presented through six different age ranges, from infancy through the preteen years, and reflect levels of understanding that follow how God designed children to learn. Learn more at [lifeway.com/levelsofbiblicalllearning](http://lifeway.com/levelsofbiblicalllearning).

# HOW IS TEAMKID: CATCHING AIR DIFFERENT?

TeamKID is new for the next generation of kids — with high energy games, a greater emphasis on missions, and more memory verses that help kids apply Bible truths to real life — while kids learn Bible truths foundational for every Christian.

## MORE BIBLE!!

---

- Bible Study: each meeting includes a Bible Story and teaching that helps kids grow into disciples of Christ.
- Bible Memory: each meeting includes a memory verse connecting to that week's Bible truth.
- Extra verses: an extra verse is listed on each week's Parent Connection from the DVD-ROM (added from the Green Cycle of *Bible Skills Drills & Thrills*)

## MORE MISSIONS!!

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- Missions Videos: each week has its own missions video from Kids on Mission
- Missions Activities: each meeting includes missions reproducibles and extras from the DVD-ROM

## MORE FUN!!

---

- More Rec Games: TOURNAMENT activities are bigger and better than ever, which means more fun!
- WARM-UP: each meeting kids off with a fun activity that can incorporate kids as they arrive and peak interest in the Bible truth for the day

# CATCHING AIR

## WHAT IS CATCHING AIR?

The perfect jump. The longest throw. The highest leap. Every competitor longs for his best performance. This volume of TeamKID teaches kids to soar in God's strength, as He helps them live for Him and tell others about His love.

### ISAIAH 40:31

Those who trust in the LORD will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.

## WHY CATCHING AIR?

Catching Air is a term many of today's athletes use to indicate their best performance for those leap, jump, or ride—literally to soar!

*TeamKID: Catching Air* wants kids to realize their strength will eventually fade, but those who trust in God will renew, walk, run, and soar in His strength!

## HOW DID YOU DEVELOP THE CATCHING AIR CONTENT?

*TeamKID: Catching Air* is designed as a next step in learning for kids in discipleship after their new Christian classes or for any kid wanting to learn more about Jesus. The content was developed to be complementary to the Disciples Path curriculum. The 36 sessions of *TeamKID: Catching Air* naturally fit Disciples Path when organized in the following way (see p. 15).

For more information about Disciples Path for Adults and Students, visit [lifeway.com/disciplespath](http://lifeway.com/disciplespath).



# TEAMKID: CATCHING AIR & DISCIPLES PATH

## THE BEGINNING: WHO IS GOD?

**MEETING 1:** *How Great Is God?*

**MEETING 2:** *Does God Keep His Promises?*

**MEETING 3:** *Who Is God?*

**MEETING 4:** *Is God Loving?*

**MEETING 5:** *Is God Just and Good?*

**MEETING 6:** *What Is God's Plan?*

## THE CALL: THE PEOPLE CALLED BY GOD

**MEETING 7:** *What Is God's Most Important Creation?*

**MEETING 8:** *What Went Wrong?*

**MEETING 9:** *Does God Love People Even Though They Sin?*

**MEETING 10:** *How Should People Respond to God's Love?*

**MEETING 11:** *How Did God Plan for People to Live in Relationship with Others?*

**MEETING 12:** *How Do Christians Work Together?*

## THE TRUTH: WHAT IS THE BIBLE?

**MEETING 13:** *Why Is the Bible True?*

**MEETING 14:** *Why Do We Need the Bible?*

**MEETING 15:** *Why Did God Give Us the Bible?*

**MEETING 16:** *How Should We Respond to the Bible?*

**MEETING 17:** *Why Should I Study and Memorize the Bible?*

**MEETING 18:** *Why Is the Bible Important?*

## THE WAY: WHO IS JESUS?

**MEETING 19:** *What Is Special About Jesus?*

**MEETING 20:** *How Does Jesus Relate to Believers?*

**MEETING 21:** *What Did Jesus Do While He Lived on Earth?*

**MEETING 22:** *How Did Jesus Live?*

**MEETING 23:** *What Happened on the Cross?*

**MEETING 24:** *How Does Jesus Change Us?*

## THE LIFE: LIVING IT OUT

**MEETING 25:** *How Do I Follow Jesus?*

**MEETING 26:** *What Is Baptism?*

**MEETING 27:** *What Is the Lord's Supper?*

**MEETING 28:** *What Does it Mean to Be a Steward?*

**MEETING 29:** *Why Should I Study the Bible?*

**MEETING 30:** *Why Should I Pray?*

## THE MISSION: WHAT ARE WE TO TELL OTHERS?

**MEETING 31:** *Do I Have a Mission?*

**MEETING 32:** *How Do I Live on Mission?*

**MEETING 33:** *Where Do I Live on Mission?*

**MEETING 34:** *How Do I Serve Others and Grow God's Kingdom?*

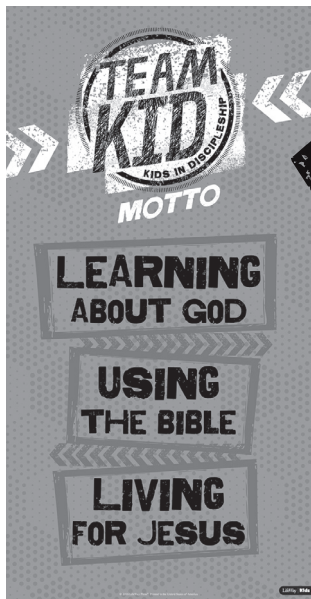
**MEETING 35:** *How Does the Church Fit into My Mission?*

**MEETING 36:** *How Do I Share Christ with Others?*



## NEW T-SHIRTS!!

Available at [lifeway.com/teamkid](http://lifeway.com/teamkid).



## CLUB MOTTO

Plan a regular time in each meeting to say the TeamKID Club Motto.



## CLUB VERSE

Plan a regular time each meeting to say the TeamKID Club Verses: Proverbs 3:5-6 (in the version your club chooses).

## WHAT ABOUT MUSIC?

Use your favorite upbeat Christian music for your club and during activities. The TeamKID Club Song is available from iTunes. You may also want to use songs from Classic TeamKID volumes that you own.

## CONNECTING WITH PARENTS

Every meeting contains a Parent Connection on the DVD-ROM to send home and keep parents involved.

## INFORMING TEACHERS

Every meeting contains a Teacher Support PDF on the DVD-ROM.



## **PROMOTING TEAMKID**

Getting children to TeamKID should be your first goal. But how can you attract children and parents who have a busy schedule? Good, effective promotion is the key.

Your publicity may include phone calls, personal visits, mail-outs, displays, bulletin boards, posters, handouts, announcements, newsletters or newspaper articles, and a host of other approaches. See DVD-ROM Item 1 for clip art.

Use the TeamKID banner to tell the community that TeamKID meets at your church (001301855).

### **15 EASY STEPS FOR PROMOTIONAL STRATEGY**

1. Begin now! Begin now displaying the TeamKID logo in the halls of your church. Place the logo in the church newsletter or bulletin. You need not explain the entire ministry. Simply let the logo visually communicate what is to come. Increase the amount of information you share as the weeks progress.
2. Use variety. Plan to use a variety of approaches (mail-outs, bulletin boards, and posters, for instance). The more you repeat your message, the more people will remember it.
3. Use the logo consistently. Use the TeamKID logo on all of your publicity pieces. Soon people will associate the logo with TeamKID and the good things you have planned. TeamKID clip art is available on DVD-ROM Item 1.
4. Choose colors. Choose two or three colors to use in all of your publicity efforts. This will make your items easily recognizable. You may wish to use the colors on the covers of the TeamKID resources.
5. Be specific. Tell the children when and where your meetings will be held. Share the title of the resource and who is invited—all boys and girls in grades 1–6 and their friends! Tell the children what they will be doing: games, fun, learning, and so on. When communicating with parents, share the meeting titles and information about what their children will learn. On the back of the Parents Letter in the Activity Books is a list of the meeting topics.
6. Do first-quality publicity. A poorly made poster or a sloppy bulletin board may do more harm than good. Let everything you prepare be attractive and appealing.

7. Enlist help. You do not have to do all of your publicity work by yourself. Enlist the help of your children's committee, church public relations committee, or a church member who is a gifted artist. Also remember to ask teenagers and senior adults for help.
8. Ask the church to pray. Introduce TeamKID to the whole congregation and request prayer support for this important task of reaching and discipling children.
9. Plan an open house. Plan an open house for the entire church four or five weeks into the club. Invite them to be a part of the ministry for which they are praying by coming to the club meetings during COOL DOWN for refreshments.
10. Use the church newsletter. Include information in the church newsletter about TeamKID meetings. Use the clip art on DVD-ROM Item 1 to call attention to the article.
11. Promote during worship. Do a brief skit or dialogue during services on Sundays and Wednesdays to announce TeamKID.
12. Notify parents. Send letters to the parents explaining the details of TeamKID. See the "Letter to Parents/Children" (DVD-ROM) Item 5 or Activity Books, pages 77-78.
13. Plan a parents' night. Invite parents to an informational meeting. Explain how TeamKID works. Plan to conduct a TeamKID meeting (or parts of one) for the parents.
14. Enlist parents. Enlist the help of parents. Ask parents to help with publicity, snacks, THE TOURNAMENT, STRETCHING, transportation, or to be a special guest during a TeamKID meeting.
15. Display the banner outside your church. Let the community know that TeamKID is meeting at your church by displaying the TeamKID Banner (001301855).



## MEETING 4

# HOW GREAT IS GOD?

**GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL, ALL-KNOWING, AND ALL-PRESENT.**

THE BIBLE GETS STRAIGHT TO THE POINT ABOUT GOD. “HE’S THE CREATOR!” THE FIRST PAGES OF GENESIS CRY OUT. FROM THE INITIAL STORY OF CREATION IN GENESIS TO THE PROPHECIES OF A NEW CREATION IN REVELATION, THE CANON OF SCRIPTURE IS BOOKENDED BY TALES OF GOD’S GREATNESS. DURING THIS MEETING, WE’LL DIG INTO THE CHARACTER OF GOD AS CREATOR. THE GREATNESS OF GOD IS SHOWN TO US EVERY DAY THROUGH THE CREATED ORDER THAT HINTS AT HIS QUALITIES OF OMNISCIENCE (ALL KNOWING), OMNIPOTENCE (ALL POWERFUL), AND OMNIPRESENCE (ALL PRESENT). WHILE GOD’S GREATNESS IS INEXHAUSTIBLE, YOU’LL GIVE YOUR TEAMKIDS A GREAT STARTING POINT TO UNDERSTAND HIM AND HIS GOSPEL BY TEACHING THEM THE CREATION STORY!

### **BIBLE VERSE**

Luke 1:37

### **BIBLE STORY**

Creation of the World (Genesis 1:1-31)



### **LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING**

- Younger Kids: God is Creator and worthy to be praised.
- Middle Kids: God is Creator and worthy to be praised.
- Preteens: God deserves respect, obedience, and honor. God wants us to live for His glory.

### **TEACHER SUPPORT**

Go deeper into the Bible Story and life application by reading this meeting’s Teacher Support (Item 23).

## WARM-UP (10 MINUTES)

- Distribute a pre-packed paper bag as children arrive for today's meeting (1 bag per child). Prompt kids to think of one thing God created. Ask kids to open their bag and use the items inside it to create a "creation critter." Invite kids to use masking tape, glue, and markers as additional resources.
- Once finished, instruct each child to write his name on the paper bag and place his creation inside.
- Say, "How hard was it for you to create something using the items inside your bag? What about God? God made something out of nothing!"

## WORKOUT (25 MINUTES)

- Invite the children and coaches to come sit on the floor. Ask, "Did everyone have time to think of something God created? How many of you used the items in your bag to create what you thought of?" As the kids raise their hands, allow them to share their creation with the class.
- Allow kids to answer, perhaps some showing their creations and others describing theirs in greater detail. Point out that kids had to think what to create before they used the supplies, and that God didn't even need supplies.
- Ask for a volunteer to pull a paper strip out of the bag and read it. Discuss each term and its meaning. Display the words/ definitions as you discuss them. Ask, "How powerful is God to be to be the Creator?"
- Tell the Bible Story in your own words. Use the following as a guide.



### CREATION OF THE WORLD BASED ON GENESIS 1:1-31

*The Bible tells us that although the world was once dark and formless, God existed in the beginning. He created the heavens and the earth and hovered over the watery depths. God said, "Let there be light!" and suddenly there was light. God saw that the light was good. God separated light from darkness. He called the light "day" and the darkness "night." This was the first day.*

*God separated the waters and put an expanse, or large space, between them. Water was above the*

#### PROVIDE:

- Small paper bag (1 per child)
- Masking tape
- Glue
- Washable markers

#### TO DO:

- Place 4 chenille craft sticks of different colors, 4-5 five small wooden sticks, and 3 large wooden sticks in each bag.

#### PROVIDE:

- Shoebox or paper bag
- Paper
- Marker
- Tape
- Chenille craft stems, small wooden sticks, large wooden sticks (several for each child)

#### TO DO:

- Print "Answer Strips" (Item 17).
- Write the words *omnipotent*, *omnipresent*, and *omniscient* and the definitions *all powerful*, *all knowing*, *in all places at once* on 3 strips, and place them in the shoebox or paper bag.

#### TIP:

Use the exact terms and definitions for older children. For younger children, write the definitions for them.

#### TIP:

Encourage kids to keep a journal (a simple notebook). They can use their journals to take notes on activities or thoughts from meetings. Afterwards, they can reflect from home on what they learned in class.





expanse, and water was below the expanse as well. God called the expanse "sky." This was the second day.

God told the water under the sky to gather together in one place, and dry land suddenly appeared. He called the dry land "earth" and the gathered waters He called "seas." It was good. Then God told the earth to produce vegetation of all kinds including trees, flowers, and seed-bearing plants. This was the third day.

On the fourth day, God told the stars, moon, and sun to shine. The sun would rule the day and the moon would rule the night. God saw it was good.

On the fifth day, God created all the birds of the air, all the fish of the sea, and all the water creatures. God commanded the sea creatures to multiply and to fill the waters of the sea. He told the birds to do the same and fill the air! God saw it was good.

God created all the living creatures like livestock, crawling creatures, and wildlife of all sorts. God saw it was good. Then God said, "Let's make man in Our image. Man will be in charge of the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, and the animals on the earth." So God created male and female, man and woman. He told them to multiply and to enjoy all the creation that He had created. He saw all of creation and said it was very good! This was the sixth day.

God's creation was complete. So, on the seventh day, God rested.

- The creation story you just heard is found in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. From the opening pages of Scripture, we learn that God is the Creator of the world and is all powerful. The New Testament says people have no excuse not to worship God when they witness all the amazing things He's made (Romans 1:10).
- God is not only all powerful, He's also all knowing. Nothing is hidden from God! If that wasn't enough to impress you, get this: God is also all present. He's everywhere at once! These qualities of God have some big words that describe them: omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all knowing), and omnipresent (in all places at once). Don't worry about remembering those big words, but do make sure you leave today remembering this: God is Great!!!

**PROVIDE:**

- 2 poster boards
- Markers
- Large sticky notes or construction paper strips and masking tape

**TO DO:**

- Print Luke 1:27 on the poster boards. Display in clear sight.

## **STRETCHING (10 MINUTES)**

- Read Luke 1:37 aloud for review. Cover a few words at a time and repeat the verse. Continue covering words and repeating the verse until the children say the verse from memory.

- Form two groups. Assign each group a Memory Verse poster. Instruct the children to cover the words and repeat the verse as a group loud enough so that the leaders can hear it!
- Start the race. The first group to finish covering the verse and reciting it from memory without peeking wins.
- Ask, "Is it hard to understand that God created everything? Sure! But knowing that God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present, we can know that nothing is impossible with God!"
- Say, "I need one person to help me." Choose a volunteer to find Luke 1:37. Read the memory verse two or three times, and discuss with your class how nothing is impossible with God! Be prepared to share your own life experiences of what God has done for you.
- Distribute Activity Books (1 per child). Allow kids to work "Note-worthy" (Younger Kids) and "I'm Puzzled" (Older Kids) and "With What?" in their Activity Books.
- Ask, "Who can still say today's verse from memory?"
- Compliment the child who gets the verse correct.

## REACH OUT (20 MINUTES)

- Show kids a globe and point out the Amazon Jungle in the country of Brazil.
- Display "Amazon Animals," pointing out each animal. Take turns letting each child choose one of the animals. Instruct other kids to guess which animal the kid chose. The child may act out the animal motion and noises to help.
- State, "Close your eyes. Pretend you are a missionary. You are in the rainforests of South America. What words describe the Amazon River? What birds do you hear and how do they sound? Pretend to paddle down the river. What animals do you see? Let's meet a missionary who braves new territory to tell others about Jesus."
- Show the "Away from It All" video.
- Discuss the video and the challenges that all missionaries face in different parts of the world: government approval, different language, strange foods, different climate and critters, finding a home, a church, and a school. Call on a kid to look up and read aloud 2 Timothy 1:7. Explain that God understands the fears we face in telling others about Him, but that He has given us the great gift of not having to be afraid.
- Pray together for missionaries' safety and for courage as they face fears to tell people all around the world about Jesus. Pray for adventurous missionaries to find and reach new people groups for Jesus Christ. Pray for your team to share Christ boldly with their friends.

### PROVIDE:

- Globe
- Activity Books
- Pen/pencil (1 per child)
- Bible
- DVD-ROM

### TO DO:

- Cue the "Away from It All" video (DVD).
- Print "Amazon Animals" (Item 21).



**PROVIDE:**

- Boundary markers

**PROVIDE:**

- Playground ball or beanbag
- DVD-ROM

**TO DO:**

- Print "Creation Pictures" (Item 22). Cut apart to place around the *Tournament* area.
- Mix up and place the pictures on the ground, or use clothespins and string and string them up between two chairs.

- Allow children time to complete the "Numbers Don't Matter" missions activity in the Activity Book as time permits.

## **TOURNAMENT (20 MINUTES)**

### **#1. VERSE RACE COVER UP**

- This is a simple tag game with a twist. Choose one player to be the tagger. When this player tags a runner, the runner must stop and join hands with the tagger. These two must now attempt to tag other players without breaking their clasp. As the game continues, the chain of players will grow. Continue play until all players are part of the chain.
- Restart the game with a new tagger. Most likely this is the player who was the last person to become the amoeba. Consider having the amoeba players make a funny noise as they tag others.
- Ask, "Is it hard to understand that God created everything? Sure! But knowing that God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present, we can know that nothing is impossible with God."

### **#2. CREATION PIN UP**

- Form two teams. Distribute the playground ball or the beanbag. Instruct the first child in each team to toss the ball/bag at the picture that represents the first day of creation. If she gets it right, then she can take the corresponding construction paper number page and place it over the picture. The first team to get all seven days in the right order wins.
- State, "Knowing the order in which God created things helps us understand Him more."
- Ask, "Did God create fish before He created the sea? Did He create livestock before He created the land? What about the stars? Did they come before the night sky? God had a specific and perfect order to Creation."

### #3. HOW GREAT IS GOD?

- On the back of each child, attach a name tag with one of God's creations written on it.
- Choose a child to be *It*. Tell *It* the name of a creation he must find. *It* must walk or skip around the room saying, "Nothing is impossible with God!" in a sing-songy voice until he finds the person with the creation tag that matches what the leader whispered. When he reaches the correct child, he says, "God created a (insert animal)!" Together they find the next creation until all the nametags are matched.
- Play continues until every child gets a turn.
- Conclude the game by leading everybody to declare, "God is greater than anything on earth!" with arms stretched out wide.

### COOL DOWN (5 MINUTES)

- Direct the children to wash their hands. Provide a snack such as animal crackers, goldfish, or fruit snacks and water to remind them of creation. As the snack and water are distributed, ask questions to review the Bible Story. You may reuse "Creation Pictures" (Item 22) as a reference.
- Questions:
  - What was created on the first day of creation? (*day and night*)
  - What was created on day two? (*sky*)
  - What was created on day three that allowed for livestock and fish to be later created? (*land and water were separated*)
  - The sun, moon, and stars were created on what day? (*four*)
  - What day were birds, fish, and water animals created? (*five*)
  - On what day was livestock (animals that roam on the ground)? (*six*)
- Conclude, "Look at the pictures and the order in which things were created. Do you think we could have had day five before day two? God had a perfect plan already in place for the animals, and He has a perfect plan in place for us too."
- Distribute "Parent Connections" (1 per child) as the children are dismissed.

#### PROVIDE:

- Scarf
- Nametag (1 per child)
- Marker

#### TO DO:

- Write the name of a creation on each nametag (dog, cat, cow, chicken, pig, boy, girl, etc.).

#### PROVIDE:

- A church-approved snack

#### TO DO:

- Print "Allergy Alert" (Item 7), listing ingredients.
- Print "Parent Connection" (Item 24) (1 per child).



# 2

## MEETING 2

# DOES GOD KEEP HIS PROMISES?

**BECAUSE GOD IS TRUTH, HE IS FAITHFUL TO KEEP ALL HIS PROMISES.**

GOD KEEPS THE PROMISES HE MAKES. IT IS IMPORTANT WE KEEP OUR PROMISES. SOMETIMES IT IS HARD FOR HUMANS TO KEEP PROMISES. GOD IS DIFFERENT. WHENEVER GOD MAKES A PROMISE, HE KEEPS HIS WORD. HE CAN DO NOTHING LESS BECAUSE HE IS THE GOD OF TRUTH.

### **BIBLE VERSE**

Deuteronomy 7:9

### **BIBLE STORY**

God's Covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12:1-8; 15; 21:1-7; 22:15-19)



### **LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING**

- Younger Kids: God is fair and can be trusted.
- Middle Kids: God is fair and can be trusted.
- Preteens: God is fair and can be trusted.

### **TEACHER SUPPORT**

Go deeper into the Bible Story and life application by reading this meeting's Teacher Support (Item 27).

## WARM-UP (10 MINUTES)

- Distribute white paper and markers as children arrive. Tell kids that today they are going to make a Promise Book. Instruct them to write or draw four different things (one per page) that they can promise to do for their families.
- Ask questions to spur their creativity, "What can you promise to do to help your Dad?" or "What is something you can promise your brother or sister?" Remind them that it has to be something they actually can do for a family member.
- Distribute colored construction paper (two per child) after the children finish their drawings. Punch two holes in the corners of all of the papers. Place the white papers between the construction papers and tie together with yarn.
- State, "When we tied our papers together, we created what we call a *binding*. This binding kept our Promise Book together, but did you know that the promises we make bind us to each other? That means when we make promises to each other, we want to keep them. We usually make promises to people we love and who are around us each day. Today we will learn about how promises go hand in hand with obedience."

## WORKOUT (25 MINUTES)

- Invite everyone to sit on the floor. Ask, "What were some of the four promises you each wrote?" Allow responses. Listen closely and remind them that the *Warm-Up* exercise allowed them to think of promises they could actually keep with different members of their families.
- Distribute the dictionary, strips, and markers. Allow kids to look up and write out the definitions of *promise*, *covenant*, *faithful*, *truthful*, and *blessing*.
- Display the terms and read their definitions.
- State, "Listen closely for these key words as I tell our story."
- Tell the Bible Story.

### PROVIDE:

- Markers or pencils
- 5-by-7-inch pieces of white paper (4 per child)
- Scissors
- Yarn
- 6-by-8-inch pieces of colored construction paper (2 per child)
- Hole punch

### TO DO:

- Pre-cut strips of yarn.

### PROVIDE:

- Bible Dictionary
- Markers
- DVD-ROM

### TO DO:

- Print and cut apart "Answer Strips" (Item 17).

### TIP:

Write the words *promise*, *covenant*, *faithful*, *truthful*, and *blessing* and their definitions on sentence strips for younger children.

### DEFINITION:

- **Promise:** To make a statement that you will do what you say you will do.
- **Covenant:** Promise between two people or between a person and God.
- **Faithful:** Trustworthy or dependable
- **Truthful:** Telling or expressing the truth, honest
- **Blessing:** To honor God or a person with good words, to praise someone, to be happy.





## GOD'S COVENANT WITH ABRAHAM BASED ON GENESIS 12:1-8; 15; 21:1-7; 22:15-19

*After Abram's father Terah died, God spoke to Abram. God told Abram to leave his father's house and go to the land that He would show him. God said Abram would be the father of a great nation, which God would give him, and that Abram's name would be great! God also promised that anyone who blessed Abram would be blessed, but that anyone who treated Abram with contempt would be cursed! Abram believed God. At 75 years old, Abram took his nephew Lot, his wife Sarai, and all his servants and possessions and started out for the land God would show him.*

*After many years, God talked to Abram again. This time, God made a covenant (a promise) with Abram. Upon arriving in Canaan, God told Abram that He would give this land to Abram's descendants and that he would have more descendants than the stars in the heavens or the sand on the seashore. For that to happen, God promised Abram a child.*

*When Abram was 99 years old, God changed Abram's name from Abram to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah. God renewed the covenant He had made with Abraham again. Although Abraham believed God, Abraham thought that he and his wife were too old to have a baby. One year later, God allowed Sarah to give birth to a baby boy. Abraham named him Isaac, which means "laughter," because Sarah laughed when God told them they were going to have a baby!*

*God kept His word to Abraham and Sarah. Even when God asked Abraham to give up Isaac later, Abraham was willing because he knew God would always keep His word and would never go back on a promise.*

- Say, "In today's story, God made Abraham some big promises. Even though these promises took a long time to be fulfilled, Abraham believed God. In the Old Testament, other promises were made that a Messiah would come to save God's people. Some of these promises took hundreds of years to come true, but they were fulfilled when Jesus arrived to save people from their sin."
- Continue, "The New Testament is filled with promises that Jesus will one day return again to judge the world and make all things new. But guess what? It's been over 2,000 years since

these promises were made! All of God's people are still waiting for Jesus to come back. Just like Abraham, Christians can trust that God will always keep His promises no matter how long it takes. God's timing is always perfect!"

## STRETCHING (10 MINUTES)

- Call attention to the verse poster and read aloud the verse together. Turn over the verse poster.
- Form two teams. Instruct the kids to stand behind the starting line. Direct the kids to run (one at a time) to the wall, grab the one sticky note, and return to their team. As a team, place the words in order and call on a coach to verify. The first team to place their notes in correct verse order wins. Replace the sticky notes and repeat several times.
- Distribute Activity Books (1 per child). Guide the kids to follow the instructions and complete the "Star Gazing" (Younger Kids) or "God Delivers" (Older Kids) activities. Once complete, review the Bible verse.
- Direct the kids to complete the "I Promise" (Younger Kids) or "Promise Puzzle" (Older Kids) activity.

### PROVIDE:

- Paper
- Sticky notes
- Marker
- Timer/Stopwatch
- Activity Books
- Pen/pencils (1 per child)

### TO DO:

- Write and display the words of Deuteronomy 7:9.
- Write one word or phrase on a sticky note and place on the opposite wall.
- Designate a starting line.

## REACH OUT (20 MINUTES)

- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle facing outward. Explain that you are going to play a silent guessing game. Direct everyone to hold their hands out and close their eyes. Quietly tap on a player's hand. That person is now the "passer," and the group will try to guess who the passer is at the end of the game. The passer can open her eyes, but everyone else keeps them shut for the entire game. The passer places one of the "Kazakhstan Photos" in the other players' hands until she has passed them all out, then takes her place back in the circle. Have everyone open their eyes and guess who the passer was.
- Explain, "In some countries, governments do not allow the Christian message to be taught openly. In these countries, missionaries cannot plainly say who they are and why they are in the country. Missionaries make friends and tell individuals and families about Jesus, even though they may not be able to invite them to a church building like we have. They give out Bibles and hold Bible studies quietly, just like the passer gently shared the photos."
- Gather and display the "Kazakhstan Photos." Say, "One country where missionaries work is Kazakhstan." Allow kids to take turns reading the captions on the photos. Ask kids about the customs in the photos and how Kazakhstan's culture is different

### PROVIDE:

- Activity Books
- Pen/pencil (1 per child)
- DVD-ROM

### TO DO:

- Cue the "God's Big Plan" video (DVD).
- Print "Kazakhstan Photos" (Item 26).

from their own. Tell kids they are going to meet a missionary family that lives and works in a country like Kazakhstan.

- Show the video. Explain that the video doesn't show the missionaries' faces for the protection of their ministry and friends.
- Reiterate that God's plan is for people to hear about the message of salvation through His Son, Jesus. Remind kids that missionaries and pastors are not the only people who are to fulfill that plan—God wants us to follow His plan, too. Ask kids, "How can you follow God's plan even though you are young?"
- Pray for missionaries who work in places where they must carefully live out God's plan. Also pray for Christians who live in places with great freedom boldly and thankfully to tell others about Jesus.

#### PROVIDE:

- 2 buckets
- 1 bag of cotton balls
- 2 spoons
- Masking tape

#### TO DO:

- Tape two start lines on the floor 4 feet apart and at least 5 feet long.
- Count out an equal number of cotton balls and pile them beside the two buckets. Place buckets at one end of the masking tape lines.

#### PROVIDE:

- Marker
- Stopwatch/timer

#### TO DO:

- Use the "Star Pattern" (Item 25) to prepare four different colored sets of stars.
- Write the verse and reference on the stars (1-2 words per star in each set).

#### TIP:

Laminate the stars if you wish to use these star sets more than once.

## TOURNAMENT (20 MINUTES)

### #1. GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

- Form two teams and distribute a metal spoon to each team.
- Explain that kids will race from the start line to the cotton balls. As a child scoops up the cotton ball, she will race to the bucket, recite one promise of God, and drop the cotton ball in the bucket. The promise could be anything from today's story or it could be another promise God has kept, like His promise never to flood the entire earth again.
- Play the game.
- Conclude, "Although this game is fun and exciting, remembering what God has done is more exciting. We study God's promises in the lives of people from the Bible to remind us that God will keep His promises to us also."

### #2. COUNT THE STARS

- Form four groups. Distribute a set of stars to each group.
- Say, "You will have 3 minutes to put the words of the verse in the correct order. When I say stop, you must stop and count how many stars you have in the correct verse order. We will repeat this activity several times with less and less time for you to put the verse together. Ready, Set, Go!"
- Signal the groups when time is up.
- Replay, reducing the time by 10 seconds with every round.
- Assign a coach to count the correct stars and declare the winner.
- Ask, "We were able to count the stars from our game, but what about the stars from our story? Was Abraham able to count all the stars in the sky? What about the nations (people) he would be a father to?"

- Pray, asking God to take our unbelief and turn it into faith in His promises.

### #3. SAND ART PICTURE

- Review how God told Abraham that he would have so many descendants that they would be as numerous as grains of sand. Explain to kids that they are going to make a beautiful sand art jar by pouring different colors of sand into the jars.
- Allow time for kids to make their sand art. Help kids pour sand and put the lid on tightly to secure. Instruct a Coach to hot glue the lids in place.
- Guide kids to pick out the piece of cloth and ribbon for their lid. Assist as necessary.
- Lead kids to write *God keeps His promises* on a self-adhesive label and stick it onto their jars.
- State, "What if I asked you to count each piece of sand in your jar? Could you do it? This week, use this sand art to remind you of the promises God has made to you and the ones He also made to Abraham."

## COOL DOWN (5 MINUTES)

- Guide each kid to wash his hands as you provide a snack, such as cereal pieces or cracker pieces and cups of water.
- Call attention to the snack and say, "Now, take your snack and count how many pieces you have." Allot a few seconds and then say, "Counting your snack pieces is fun, and you can manage to do that, but can you count the stars in the sky or the grains of sand on a beach?"
- Review the Bible Story with them, and see who can say the memory verse.
- Distribute "Parent Connections" (1 per child) as the children are dismissed.



#### PROVIDE:

- Sand-art sand (or fine sand mixed with powder tempera paint)
- Small jars (1 per child) with lids
- 4-by-4-inch square pieces of cloth in different colors
- Hot glue gun and glue
- 2-3 different colors of ribbon
- Newspaper
- Self-adhesive label
- Marker

#### TO DO:

- Place newspaper over the work area.

#### TIP:

Glue a picture shape on construction paper for younger kids. Allow kids to place sand on the glue to finish their picture. Shake all excess sand into a trashcan.

#### PROVIDE:

- A church-approved snack

#### TO DO:

- Print "Allergy Alert" (Item 7), listing ingredients.
- Print "Parent Connection" (Item 28) (1 per child).

# CATCHING AIR

## WITH WHAT?

Circle the first letter and then cross out the next one. Continue this pattern of crossing out every second letter until you can write the message of our memory verse in the squares below.

W Q I W T E H D G L O R D T N T O E T G H Y I J N B G F I C S S I R M L P G O H S Y S R I B T L Y E F L G U E K D E B I T 3 D 7 W

ANSWER:

							,
					:		

## NUMBERS DON'T MATTER

READ THE FOLLOWING MISSIONARY STORY. The Jansens have lived in their Amazon community since 2012. So far, six people have chosen to follow Jesus and be baptized. The family plays games with a group of 60-80 kids each week. The games lead into a story time where boys and girls can, for the first time, hear Bible stories about God's plan for all people.

How has God provided for the Jansens? Is God big enough to help them talk about Him to other people? Did you know that prayer is one of the best ways to encourage someone? Write out a prayer, encouraging the Jansen family about God's greatness.



## NOTE-WORTHY

In a special notebook or journal, write down how great God is to you. Think of all the things He has created. Think also of all the ways God has blessed you. Write these thoughts down. Write down how God's greatness makes you feel. Ask yourself, "Is there anything that is impossible for God?" Don't forget to pray, thanking Him for all His creation and all He has done for you.

# MEETING 2

DOES GOD KEEP HIS PROMISES?



GOD  
IS  
GOD

A  
THOUSAND  
GENERATIONS

KEEP HIS  
COMMANDMENTS

## STAR GAZING

Look up Deuteronomy 7:9 and use the phrases in the stars to write the verse message in your own words in the space below.

FAITHFUL  
GOD

DEUTERONOMY  
7:9

ONE BIG GOD, ONE BIG PLAN

Circle the words in orange that you believe best complete the sentence.

GOD (WANTS, CALLS, CHOOSES, NEEDS) TO USE (ANIMALS, TOYS, CARDS, PEOPLE) TO CARRY OUT HIS (WORK, PLAN, PROMISES, WORD) AND IS (GOOD, FAITHFUL, JUST, BIG ENOUGH) TO KEEP HIS (WORD, PROMISES, VOW, PLEDGE).

Read the sentence with the words you chose. Did you choose the correct words? There are actually no wrong answers! God has one big plan, and we are all part of it!

Missionaries use whatever they can, whenever they can, to tell people about God. They trust God's promise every day.

Pray, asking God to show how you can be part of carrying out His plan!

## I PROMISE!!

In the space below, write down all the promises that you see God keeping. Make sure that they are promises from the Bible.

You can also make a list of prayer requests and check them off as they are answered.

A sheet of white lined paper with a torn left edge. Along the left margin, there are several small, colorful, torn-out figures of people in various poses. The paper is intended for writing promises or prayer requests.

# MEETING

1

HOW GREAT IS GOD?

## I'M PUZZLED!!

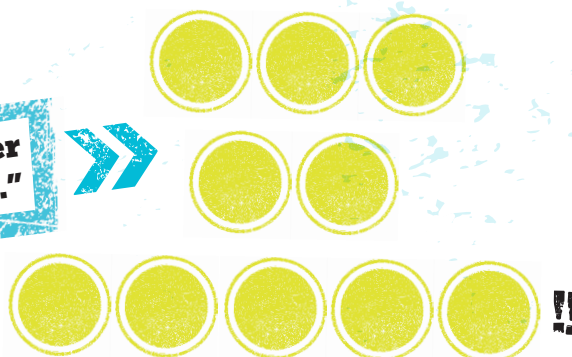
Finish the puzzle by finding the words and unscramble the circled letters. Do what the unscrambled message says.

**omnipresent** **animals**  
**omnipotent** **fish**  
**omniscient** **ocean**  
**creation** **creatures**  
**trees** **man**  
**flowers** **woman**  
**birds** **stars**

**moon**  
**sun**  
**comets**  
**gravity**  
**water**  
**land**  
**fruit**

h	a	j	t	t	d	b	w	z	h	o	k	p	s	o
g	u	n	w	n	l	n	n	a	m	i	n	d	e	u
v	m	c	i	r	e	o	c	n	t	z	x	o	r	b
n	u	q	b	m	i	i	i	s	e	e	r	t	u	j
a	o	q	n	t	a	p	c	f	b	q	r	e	t	y
e	s	x	a	n	r	l	i	s	u	x	p	e	a	p
c	e	e	u	e	g	s	s	j	i	w	u	d	e	m
o	r	s	s	c	h	n	o	o	m	n	o	x	r	g
c	k	e	t	n	e	t	o	p	i	n	m	o	c	r
s	n	f	l	o	w	e	r	s	a	a	y	o	f	a
t	d	s	t	a	r	s	k	m	j	m	m	d	r	v
t	k	r	f	e	e	u	o	r	d	e	k	y	u	i
e	o	x	i	g	g	w	p	d	t	n	w	r	i	t
u	m	a	x	b	k	y	b	s	u	a	z	t	y	
v	a	c	o	m	e	t	s	f	t	m	w	l	b	q

"Remember that ..."





## NUMBERS DON'T MATTER

Read the following missionary story.



The Jansens have lived in their Amazon community since 2012 and, so far, six people have chosen to follow Jesus and be baptized. The Jansen family plays games with a group of 60-80 kids each week. The games lead into a story time where boys and girls can, for the first time, hear Bible stories about God's plan for all people.



How has God provided for the Jansens? Is God big enough to help them as they talk about Him to other people? Did you know that prayer is one of the best ways to encourage someone? Write out a prayer encouraging the Jansen family about God's greatness.

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## WITH WHAT?!!

Unscramble the key memory verse words in order at the bottom of the page. Don't forget the reference!

HNTGOIN

SI

With God ...

BLESPIOSIM.

KULE 3:71

○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

# MEETING 2

DOES GOD KEEP HIS PROMISES?

## ONE BIG GOD, ONE BIG PLAN

Circle the words in the box below that you believe best complete the sentence. Find how we can be part of God's plan.

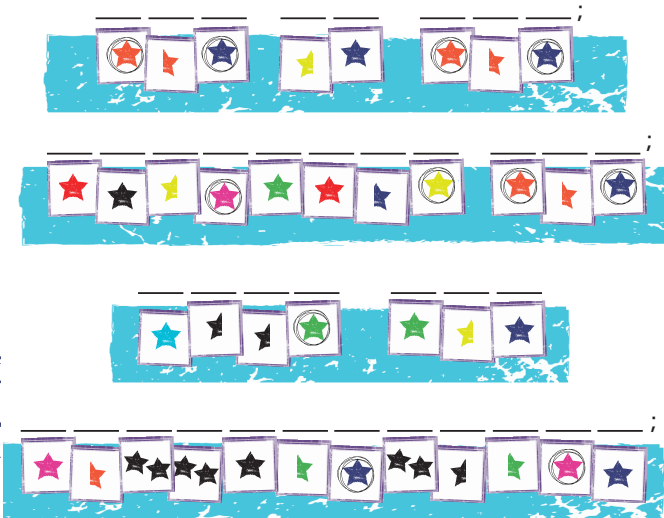
God (wants, calls, chooses, needs) to use (animals, toys, cards, people) to carry out His (work, plan, promises, Word) and is (good, faithful, just, big enough) to keep His (Word, promises, vow, pledge).

Read the sentence with the words you chose. Did you choose the correct words? There are actually no wrong answers! God has a plan, and we are all a part of it! Missionaries use whatever they can, whenever they can to tell people about God. They trust God's promises every day. Pray, asking God to show how you can be a part of carrying out His big plan.

## GOD DELIVERS!!

Decode the message using the code on the right side of the page. Find the letter that matches the symbol beneath

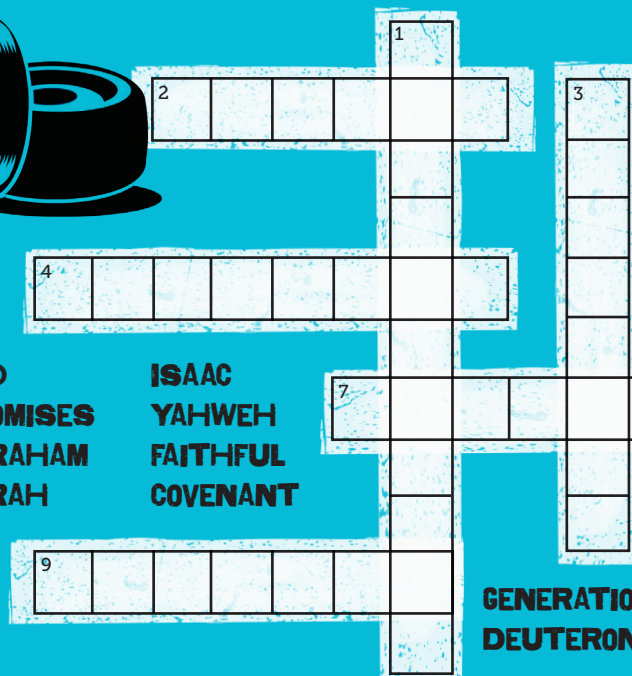
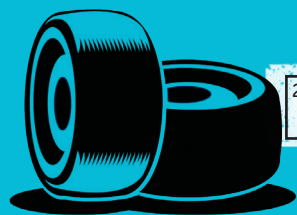
each blank space. Once you've finished, read the special phrase and tell another person one promise God has kept.



**A thousand generations. Deuteronomy 7:9**



A	B	C	D	E
★	★	★	★	★
F	G	H	I	J
★	★	★	★	★
K	L	M	N	O
★	★	★	★	★
P	Q	R	S	T
★	★	★	★	★
U	V	W	X	Y
★	★	★	★	★
Z				
★				



GOD  
PROMISES  
ABRAHAM  
SARAH

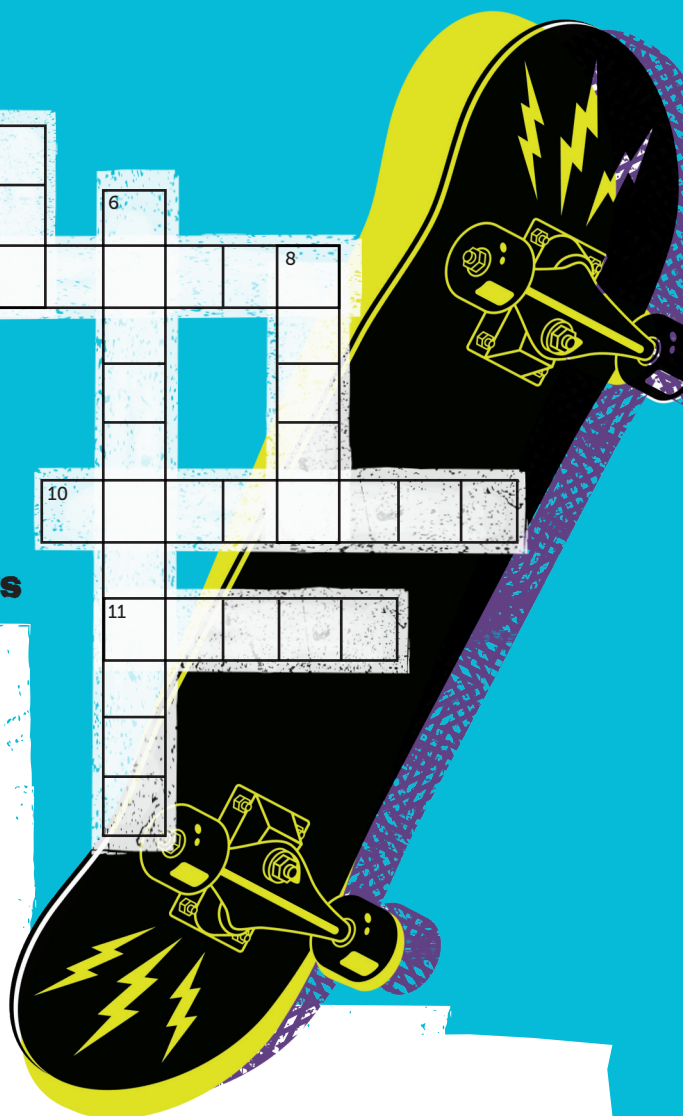
ISAAC  
YAHWEH  
FAITHFUL  
COVENANT

GENERATIONS  
DEUTERONOMY

COMMANDMENTS

## PROMISE PUZZLE

Solve the crossword puzzle.



### DOWN



1. The fifth book in the Old Testament.
3. A promise made that can not be broken.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ keeps His promises.
6. God blesses \_\_\_\_\_ of people in a family.
8. Mother of Isaac.

### ACROSS



2. \_\_\_\_\_ is another name for God.
4. God keeps His \_\_\_\_\_.
7. God's rules we need to follow.
9. The man God promised to make into a great nation.
10. God is \_\_\_\_\_ and true.
11. Son of Abraham and Sarah.