

I Learn God Is Powerful

Objective



Each child will understand that God's power is great.

Scripture



Acts 2:1-12
(Pentecost)

Memory Verse



Psalm 96:4

Planning Tips



For the Art Center, prepare a paper circle and cut 6-inch lengths of ribbon for each child. For the Second Meeting of the Week, for each child: cut flame-shaped pieces from red construction paper, prepare a paper plate by cutting two 1-inch slits across from each other in the plate and putting a piece of 48" ribbon through the slits, over the back.



What You'll Need

- Honeybees Bible Corner* for Meeting 1 for each child
- Bible Happenings* for Meeting 1 for each child

LEARNING CENTERS

- Home Living Center: yeast, sugar, cup of warm water, baking soda, vinegar, paper cups, plastic bowl, mixing spoon, wet wipes
- God's Wonderful World Center: large magnet, plastic jar and tape (optional), metal objects
- Art Center: safe electric fan, prepared construction paper or

poster board circles, narrow ribbon, safety pins

GETTING STARTED

- Happy Honeybee & Lacey Ladybug Puppets*, hive, large flower in pot

BIBLE STORY

- Bible Teaching Resources* sheets 1 and 2
- Bible, double-sided tape (or tape rolls)
- Nature items, bag or box, prepared footprints, tape

BIBLE APPLICATION

- Crayons
- Stop and Stretch: bananas or applesauce, juice or water, napkins, paper cups, spoons (opt.)

BIBLE LEARNING

- Crayons, craft sticks, tape, glue (opt.)

What You'll Need OPTIONS

- Bible Happenings* for Meeting 1 for each child
- Student Award Book* for each child
- All the Best Songs for Kids* Songbook & Early Childhood CD
- CD player
- Happy Honeybee & Lacey Ladybug Puppets*
- Bible, prepared flame shape
- Snack: animal crackers, juice, napkins, paper cups
- Game: masking tape, cotton balls
- Craft: *Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 1, prepared flames, paper plates and bowls, ribbon, crayons, tape



Pre-Session

(Allow 10-20 minutes)

Follow your regular opening ceremonies: all-ages rally, attendance, award checking and presentation, offering, and announcements. (See page 4 at the beginning of this book for the scheduled features.) If some children arrive early, have them begin the learning center activities. Take this time to get to know each of your twos and threes personally.



Learning Centers

- Home Living Center: Bring yeast, sugar, baking soda, vinegar, a plastic bowl, a cup of warm water, and a mixing spoon to your meeting. Say, pointing to these cooking items, **These are some wonderful things God made. We can see God's power in them. God gave us these things to help us. Yeast and baking soda can be used to make bread, cakes, and cookies fluffy and light. Your mommy can also clean things at home using soda and vinegar.**



Learning Centers (Cont.)

While the children watch, mix yeast, warm water, and sugar in the bowl. Let the children watch it begin to bubble. A more instant reaction will be obtained by mixing soda with vinegar. Have several paper cups available in case the children want to do these harmless experiments themselves. Refer often to seeing God's power in the things He made. Use wet wipes to clean little fingers.

God's Wonderful World Center: Bring a large magnet to your meeting. Let the children experiment with it to see what things in the room the magnet is drawn to. If you wish to use small metal items, place them in a plastic jar (like a large soft drink bottle) and seal the lid with tape. The magnet will attract the items through the jar without the risk of those items getting into little mouths. Say, **The magnet is powerful. God is much more powerful. God made the power of the magnet.** Note: In case you find yourself in a summer storm at meeting time, use that opportunity to talk about God's power. Some of your little ones may be fearful of the thunder and lightning. Smile and say, **When it storms, I like to sit quietly and think about how powerful God is. God made the wind. God made the rain. God made the lightning. God made the thunder.**

Art Center: Before the meeting, cut one 3- to 4-inch circle out of brightly-colored paper or poster board for each child. Draw a smiling face on each circle and print the words "God is powerful. He made me." Also cut several 6-inch lengths of narrow ribbon for each child.

Bring a safe electric fan to your room. Say, **We can feel wind when we stand in front of this fan. God does not need a fan to make wind. God is powerful. He made everything.** Help each child tape the strips of ribbon to the back of her circle so the ribbons hang down. Safety pin the circle to each child's clothing and let them take turns standing in front of the fan so the wind blows the ribbons. As each child stands in front of the fan say, **God made [Ashley]. God is very powerful.**

Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week



Getting Started

(Allow 10-20 minutes)

Let's Talk to God

Remind the children to begin cleaning up their learning centers. Begin singing the HONEYBEES TRANSITION SONG (see page 4) and lead them to the Honeybees rug. Encourage the children to do the HONEYBEES PRAYER RHYME (see page 4) with you. Then say the following prayer. Remind the children to bow their heads, fold their hands, and pray each line after you when you pause. Then say the following prayer. If possible, have a coworker respond with the children:

Dear God,
We praise You
For Your power.
We thank You
For all You do for us.
In Jesus' name
We pray,
Amen.

A Visit from Happy and Lacey

Have Happy looking out of his hive at a potted flower.
LACEY: What are you doing, Happy?
HAPPY: Just looking. Isn't it wonderful?
LACEY: Isn't what wonderful?

Second Meeting Options

1. Getting Started **OPTION**

Song Time

As the children complete their learning center activities, begin singing the HONEYBEES TRANSITION SONG and guide them to the Honeybees rug. Sing the HONEYBEES THEME SONG. Then sing CLAP YOUR HANDS, clapping on appropriate words, and WONDER SONG from *All the Best Songs for Kids*.

2. Bible Story **OPTIONS**



Listen to the Bible Story

Before the meeting, cut out one flame shape from red construction paper. Hold your open Bible as you tell the story.

Say, **I see many strong boys and girls. Let me see those muscles.** (Feel each child's muscle and make appropriate comments.) **Each of you is very strong. Mommies and daddies are strong, too. But God is stronger than you. God is stronger than mommies and daddies. God is very powerful. God can control big things like the wind. God can control little things, even our tongues. Today we're going to hear about a time God showed His great power.**

Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week



Getting Started (Cont.)

- HAPPY: This flower! (Happy comes out of his hive and “points” at the flower.)
- LACEY: Yes, I guess so. I really hadn’t thought about flowers.
- HAPPY: Look at all the different parts. Look how they are put together. Look at the colors! God made the flower.
- LACEY: You’re right, Happy. It is a wonderful flower. I guess we do not look at God’s wonderful work closely enough.
- HAPPY: God is a powerful God.



Bible Story

(Allow 15-20 minutes)

Listen to the Bible Story

Ask the children to stand and copy your motions in the following action rhyme. Repeat it a couple of times:

In the budding of a flower

(open your fist to simulate a flower growing from a bud),

In the lightning and the rain

(draw a Z in the air; wiggle your fingers down for rain),

The power (flex arms) of our God above (point up)

Is made so very plain (nod your head and sit down).

Use a craft knife to cut along the solid lines on the Story Visual from *Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 2. Fold the sheet in half along the broken line. Side A will be used alone at first, then side B, and finally flap C will be folded forward to show the disciples speaking to the multitude on side B. Cut out the Wind and small Tongues of Fire from sheet 1 and use double-sided tape (or tape rolls) to hold the tongues of fire above the heads of the disciples on flap C (when indicated in the story) and to attach the Wind to the top of side A (when indicated). Hold your Bible open as you tell this story.

GOD IS VERY POWERFUL

(Acts 2:1-12)

A church is not just a building like we are in. A church is people who love Jesus, too. Long ago, after Jesus went back to heaven, God wanted people who loved Jesus to be the first church. God knew the church needed a good start. He sent great power to the helpers Jesus left on earth. (Show side A with flap C still in place; side B should be folded behind side A so it is not visible.)

One day, Jesus’ helpers were together in a room. Suddenly, a sound was heard throughout the town like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the room. (Add the Wind figure to the top of side A with double-sided tape.) Inside the room, on Jesus’ helpers, God’s power glowed like fire. (Add Tongues of Fire above the heads of the disciples.) The people knew something special was happening. They knew God’s power was making them ready for the work God wanted them to do.

Many people came to see what was happening. A big crowd gathered. The people in the crowd spoke words in different languages.

Second Meeting Options

2. Bible Story (Cont.) OPTIONS



GOD IS VERY POWERFUL

(Acts 2:1-12)

A long time ago, right after Jesus went back to heaven, Jesus’ helpers were all together in one big room, just like you are here today. Jesus’ helpers were waiting — waiting for something special to happen that Jesus had told them about.

Suddenly . . . they heard a great wind. (Put your hand to your ear and listen.) Then what looked like flames of fire came and sat on everybody’s head. (Hold flame paper on top of your head.) The fire did not burn them. It was a picture of the special gift each person received — the gift of God’s Holy Spirit. God was giving each helper His special power to do His work. God had a special job He wanted His helpers to do. They were to tell everybody around them about Jesus.

People had come to their city from many far away places. The people spoke many different languages. Jesus’ helpers could not understand them. But God’s Holy Spirit made their minds (point to head) understand the strange languages and made their tongues (point to mouth) talk to the people in the strange languages. God is so powerful, He can do amazing things like that! Everybody was happy to hear about Jesus.

Learn from the Bible Story

Have the children walk in a circle. Sing the following words to the tune of LONDON BRIDGE. Use the motions.

God is very powerful (flex arms), powerful, powerful. God is very powerful. He can change our words. (Point to mouth.)

God is very powerful (flex arms), powerful, powerful. God is very powerful. He can change our hearts (both hands over heart).

God is very powerful (flex arms), powerful, powerful. God is very powerful. He can guide our feet. (Stomp feet.)

You may want to read the Bible story from page 3 of *Bible Happenings Take-Home Papers* at this time. Show the picture as you tell the story.

Bible Words Game

Now sing these words to the tune of LONDON BRIDGE:

God is very powerful, powerful, powerful.
God is very powerful.

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Bible Story (Cont.)

They spoke languages Jesus' helpers did not speak. (Turn to side B with sides A and C folded behind.)

Jesus' helpers came and spoke to the crowd. They were telling about Jesus and how great God is. (Turn flap C out beside side B so the disciples appear to be speaking to the crowd; side A should be folded behind side B so it is not visible.) Here was something new! God's power made each person able to understand what Jesus' helpers were saying. The helpers were speaking the peoples' different languages! All the people were amazed. Many, many people believed in Jesus that day.

When that day was over, the first church had begun. God's power had been seen by everyone!

Learn from the Bible Story

In a bag or box place several nature items. Let the children take turns drawing out one item at a time. For each item say:

Can [Katie] make a [leaf]?

I can't, nor can you. (Shake head.)

But God can make a [leaf]. (Point up.)

We know what His power can do.

(If you have a large group, you may want to divide into two or three smaller groups for this activity.)

Bible Words Memory Time

Psalm 96:4 — “*The LORD is great[, and greatly to be praised].*” (KJV)

“*Great is the LORD [and most worthy of praise].*” (NIV)

If you have younger children in your group, feel free to have them learn just the Bible Words outside the brackets. Older children may learn the entire verse. Before the meeting, use the Footprint Pattern on *Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 1 to cut a construction paper footprint for each child. Tape the footprints in a circle on the floor. Have each child stand on a footprint. Show the children how they are to walk from one footprint to another as you say the Bible Words over and over (or sing them to the tune of JESUS LOVES ME [optional] from *All the Best Songs for Kids*). Say, **Our Lord God is great and powerful. We should praise and thank Him!** Save the footprints for use in future meetings.



Bible Application

(Allow 10-20 minutes)



Happy's Bible Response

Point out the lightning and rain on page 1 of *Honeybees Bible Corner Classroom Activity Sheets* for Meeting 1. Then ask, **How many of you have ever seen and heard a thunderstorm?** Pause for

Second Meeting Options

2. Bible Story (Cont.) OPTIONS



The LORD is great.

(NIV: Great is the LORD.)

Yell YEAH!! and clap. Say, **We just sang our Bible Words. Now let's say the Bible Words together.** Read the verse from your Bible. Lead the children in saying the verse a few times. Say, **Our Lord God is very great and powerful. He made all of us and He loves us! Thank You, God, for all the great things You do.** Have the children say the verse again, then sing it, and clap for the Lord.

3. Bible Application OPTIONS



A Visit from Happy & Lacey

HAPPY: (Humming LONDON BRIDGE)

LACEY: I know that song. It's London Bridge. I heard the kids sing it.

HAPPY: No, it has new words. Listen. (Sings) God is very powerful, powerful, powerful. God is very powerful. The LORD is great.

LACEY: I like those words better than the London Bridge song.

LEADER: Me, too. Let's have the boys and girls sing it with us. (Sing together.)

Let's Read a Fiction Story

You may want to read the fiction story from today's *Bible Happenings Take-Home Papers*. Show the pictures and talk about the questions.

Snack Time

After the children wash their hands, lead them in praying the THANKFUL RHYME (see page 5). Serve animal crackers and juice. Ask, **Which of these animals do you think is the most powerful?** Pause for responses. Say, **God is so powerful He made all the animals by just speaking.** Have the children say the Bible Words.

Easy-Trac™ First Meeting of the Week



Bible Application (Cont.)



responses, and say, God is very powerful. He makes the thunder. He makes the lightning. He makes the rain. Then read OUT IN THE STORM. Say, Storms can remind us of God's power. God's power also makes the bright sunlight and the peaceful nights. I'm thankful God is so powerful — aren't you?

Give each child crayons and page 2 from *Bible Corner*. Have the children scribble color the picture. Say, **God's power helped people from different countries understand what Jesus' helpers were saying to them. God is very powerful. He can do anything.** Point to each word at the top of the page as you say, **God's power helped the people understand each other.**

Stop and Stretch Time

After the children wash their hands, lead them in praying the THANKFUL RHYME (see page 5). Serve fresh bananas or applesauce. Ask, **Whose power makes bananas (or apples) grow? That's right, [Adam]; God's power makes bananas grow.** Give each child a napkin and a cup of juice or water. Talk about other foods God's power causes to grow. Ask how many have gardens at their homes and have seen food growing.

If you have time, read the fiction story from today's *Bible Happenings Take-Home Papers* and show the pictures.



Bible Learning

(Allow 10-15 minutes)



Happy's Bible Activity

Before the meeting, cut out the fan from page 3 of each *Bible Corner* for Meeting 1. Give each child crayons, a craft stick, and the fan from *Bible Corner*. Point to the Bible Words as you read them. If you use the NIV, cut the box from page 4 and glue it to cover the KJV words on the fan. Print the child's name on the back, and then let the child scribble color the front of the fan. Tape a craft stick handle to the fan. Show the children how to wave their fans to make wind. Talk about God's power as they fan themselves.



Closing

(Allow 5-10 minutes)



Prayer & Song Time

After a brief closing prayer, sing the GOOD-BYE, FRIENDS SONG. At the close of the First Meeting of the Week, remind the children to bring their award books to the second meeting. Hand out *Bible Corner*, today's craft, and *Bible Happenings Take-Home Papers* to each child.

Second Meeting Options

4. Bible Learning OPTIONS

Power Blows

Put two long lines of masking tape down on the floor, about 2 feet apart. Have the children get down on their hands and knees behind one of the lines. Set several cotton balls in front of each child. Show them how to blow the cotton balls and try to get one across the other tape line. Say, **God's mighty wind power is greater than any wind we can blow.**

Craft Time

Before the meeting, cut a flame from red construction paper for each child, using the Tongues of Fire from *Bible Teaching Resources* sheet 1 as a pattern. Prepare a paper plate for each child by cutting two one-inch slits, one on each side of the plate. Thread a 48-inch piece of ribbon through the two holes, over the back. Tape a paper bowl upside down to the back of each plate to form a crown for the hat. Print, "The Lord is Great!" on the rim.

Review the Bible story. Give each child a "hat," crayons, and a flame. Say, **Let's decorate hats to remind us of God's great power.** Let each child scribble color the hat. Help him tape one flame of fire to the bowl. Print each child's name on his hat. Tie the hat on his head to wear home.

Leader Tip

Bible Background

The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus' followers on what later Judaism called the day of Pentecost. Originally, it was the festival of the first fruits of the grain harvest that occurred fifty days after Passover (Leviticus 23:17-21). Jews living in the first century A.D. also considered this day the anniversary of the giving of the Law of Moses at Mount Sinai and as a time to renew their covenant with God. By beginning Acts 2 with a reference to Pentecost, Luke did not miss the significance of the event. While for the Jews, the festival was a day to celebrate the coming of the Mosaic Law, Christians would remember the day for the coming of the Holy Spirit.