

BIBLE STUDY MEDIA

SUNDAY SCHOOL

HEARTS

A GOSPEL LECTIONARY CURRICULUM

ALIVE

YEAR B

WINTER

HEARTS ALIVE

SCOPE & SEQUENCE | Lectionary year A

WINTER | YEAR A

- WEEK 1 ❖ 12/1/19**
Advent 1
(SS) Prophecy and Expectation: The Mountain of the Lord (Isaiah 2:1–5)
(CC) Hope Comes from Jesus (Romans 13:11–14)
- WEEK 2 ❖ 12/8/19**
Advent 2
(SS) Prophecy and Expectation: The Shoot of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1–10)
(CC) Hope That is for Everyone (Romans 15:4–13)
- WEEK 3 ❖ 12/15/19**
Advent 3
(SS) Prophecy and Expectation: Garden in the Desert (Isaiah 35:1–10)
(CC) Hope That Yearns (James 5:7–10)
- WEEK 4 ❖ 12/22/19**
Advent 4
(SS) Prophecy and Expectation: Emmanuel God with Us (Isaiah 7:10–16)
(CC) Hope Has a Name (Romans 1:1–7)
- WEEK 5 ❖ 12/29/19**
Christmas 1
(SS) Praise the Lord: Raised up a Horn/King (Psalm 148)
(CC) Like His Brothers and Sisters (Hebrews 2:10–18)
- WEEK 6 ❖ 1/5/20**
Christmas 2–ABC
(SS) Praise the Lord: For His Divine Plan (Psalm 147:12–20)
(CC) God's Blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3–14)
- WEEK 7 ❖ 1/12/20**
Baptism of the Lord
Lectionary 1
(SS) Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13–17)
(CC) A Light to the Nations (Isaiah 42:1–9)
- WEEK 8 ❖ 1/19/20**
Epiphany 2–Lectionary 2
(SS) John Points to Jesus (John 1:29–42)
(CC) Called to Be Saints (1 Corinthians 1:1–9)
- WEEK 9 ❖ 1/26/20**
Epiphany 3–Lectionary 3
(SS) Jesus Calls His First Disciples (Matthew 4:12–23)
(CC) Baptized into Unity (1 Corinthians 1:10–18)
- WEEK 10 ❖ 2/2/20**
Epiphany 4–Lectionary 4
(SS) Sermon on the Mount: Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1–12)
(CC) God's Amazing Wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:18–31)
- WEEK 11 ❖ 2/9/20**
Epiphany 5–Lectionary 5
(SS) Sermon on the Mount: Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13–20)
(CC) Paul's One Message (1 Corinthians 2:1–12 [13–16])
- WEEK 12 ❖ 2/16/20**
Epiphany 6
Proper 1, Lectionary 6
(SS) Sermon on the Mount: The Higher Law (Matthew 5:21–37)
(CC) God Grows the Church (1 Corinthians 3:1–9)
- WEEK 13 ❖ 2/23/20**
Transfiguration Sunday
(SS) Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–9)
(CC) A More Certain Word (2 Peter 1:16–21)

SPRING | YEAR A

- WEEK 1 ❖ 3/1/20**
Lent 1
(SS) Baptism: Temptation and Repentance (Matthew 4:1–11)
(CC) The Fall into Sin (Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7)
- WEEK 2 ❖ 3/8/20**
Lent 2
(SS) Baptism: Be Born Again (John 3:1–17 or Matthew 17:1–9)
(CC) God Calls Abraham (Genesis 12:1–4a)
- WEEK 3 ❖ 3/15/20**
Lent 3
(SS) Baptism: Living Water (John 4:5–42)
(CC) Water from the Rock (Exodus 17:1–7)
- WEEK 4 ❖ 3/22/20**
Lent 4
(SS) Baptism: New Eyes (John 9:1–41)
(CC) Samuel Anoints David (1 Samuel 16:1–13)
- WEEK 5 ❖ 3/29/20**
Lent 5
(SS) Baptism: Death to Life (John 11:1–45)
(CC) Valley of Dry Bones: God's Offered New Start (Ezekiel 37:1–14)
- WEEK 6 ❖ 4/5/20**
Palm Sunday
(SS) Liturgy of the Passion (Matthew 26:14–27:66)
(CC) Liturgy of the Palms (Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29)
- WEEK 7 ❖ 4/12/20**
Easter Sunday
(SS) Resurrection (John 20:1–18 or Matthew 28:1–10)
(CC) Peter Preaches to Cornelius (Acts 10:34–43 or Jeremiah 31:1–6)
- WEEK 8 ❖ 4/19/20**
Easter 2
(SS) A Living Hope: Faith Greater Than Gold (1 Peter 1:3–9)
(CC) Peter at Pentecost: Witnesses (Acts 2:14a, 22–32)
- WEEK 9 ❖ 4/26/20**
Easter 3
(SS) A Living Hope: Sincere Love (1 Peter 1:17–23)
(CC) Peter at Pentecost: Blessings for Families and Nations (Acts 2:14a, 36–41)
- WEEK 10 ❖ 5/3/20**
Easter 4
(SS) A Living Hope: Follow the Shepherd of Our Souls (1 Peter 2:19–25)
(CC) How to Build Christian Community (Acts 2:42–47)
- WEEK 11 ❖ 5/10/20**
Easter 5
(SS) A Living Hope: Holy Living Temple (1 Peter 2:2–10)
(CC) Stephen and the Ascended Jesus (Acts 7:55–60)
- WEEK 12 ❖ 5/17/20**
Easter 6
(SS) A Living Hope: Suffering for Doing Good (1 Peter 3:13–22)
(CC) Paul in Athens: Jesus Is Lord (Acts 17:22–31)
- WEEK 13 ❖ 5/24/20**
Easter 7
(SS) A Living Hope: Standing Firm and Faithful (1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11)
(CC) Jesus's Promised Holy Spirit (Acts 1:6–14)
- WEEK 14 ❖ 5/31/20**
Day of Pentecost
(SS) God's Spirit on His People (Numbers 11:24–30)
(CC) The Holy Spirit (John 20:19–23 or John 7:37–39)

HEARTS ALIVE

SCOPE & SEQUENCE | Lectionary year A

SUMMER | YEAR A (CHILDREN'S CHURCH)

- WEEK 1 ❖ 6/7/20**
Trinity Sunday
(CC) The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16–20)
- WEEK 2 ❖ 6/14/20**
Proper 6, Lectionary 11
(CC) Missionary Sermon: Jesus Sends Workers (Matthew 9:35—10:8, [9–23])
- WEEK 3 ❖ 6/21/20**
Proper 7, Lectionary 12
(CC) Missionary Sermon: Pick Up Your Cross (Matthew 10:24–39)
- WEEK 4 ❖ 6/28/20**
Proper 8, Lectionary 13
(CC) Missionary Sermon: A Cup of Cold Water (Matthew 10:40–42)
- WEEK 5 ❖ 7/5/20**
Proper 9, Lectionary 14
(CC) Come to Jesus (or Not) (Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30)
- WEEK 6 ❖ 7/12/20**
Proper 10, Lectionary 15
(CC) Parables: Sower (Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23)
- WEEK 7 ❖ 7/19/20**
Proper 11, Lectionary 16
(CC) Parables: Weeds (Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43)
- WEEK 8 ❖ 7/26/20**
Proper 12, Lectionary 17
(CC) Parables: Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52)
- WEEK 9 ❖ 8/2/20**
Proper 13, Lectionary 18
(CC) Mighty Acts: Feeding the 5,000 (Matthew 14:13–21)
- WEEK 10 ❖ 8/9/20**
Proper 14, Lectionary 19
(CC) Mighty Acts: Walking on Water (Matthew 14:22–33)
- WEEK 11 ❖ 8/16/20**
Proper 15, Lectionary 20
(CC) Hypocrites and True Believers (Matthew 15: (10–20), 21–28)

FALL | YEAR A

- WEEK 1 ❖ 8/23/20**
Proper 16, Lectionary 21
(SS) (SS) Baby Moses Saved from Pharaoh (Exodus 1:8—2:10)
(CC) Discipleship: Peter's Confession (Matthew 16:13–20)
- WEEK 2 ❖ 8/30/20**
Proper 17, Lectionary 22
(SS) Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1–15)
(CC) Discipleship: Take Up Your Cross (Matthew 16:21–28)
- WEEK 3 ❖ 9/6/20**
Proper 18, Lectionary 23
(SS) Plagues and Passover (Exodus 12:1–32)
(CC) Community Sermon: If Another Member Sins against You (Matthew 18:15–20)
- WEEK 4 ❖ 9/13/20**
Proper 19, Lectionary 24
(SS) Salvation at the Red Sea (Exodus 14:19–31)
(CC) Community Sermon: Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:21–35)
- WEEK 5 ❖ 9/20/20**
Proper 20, Lectionary 25
(SS) Manna in the Wilderness (Exodus 16:1–15)
(CC) Community Sermon: Parable of the Vineyard Workers' Wages (Matthew 20:1–16)
- WEEK 6 ❖ 9/27/20**
Proper 21, Lectionary 26
(SS) Water from the Rock (Exodus 17:1–7)
(CC) Temple Conflicts: By What Authority (Matthew 21:23–32)
- WEEK 7 ❖ 10/4/20**
Proper 22, Lectionary 27
(SS) Sinai and the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20)
(CC) Temple Conflicts: Parable of the Vineyard Owner (Matthew 21:33–46)
- WEEK 8 ❖ 10/11/20**
Proper 23, Lectionary 28
(SS) The Golden Calf (Exodus 32:1–14)
(CC) Temple Conflicts: Parable of the Wedding Banquet (Matthew 22:1–14)
- WEEK 9 ❖ 10/18/20**
Proper 24, Lectionary 29
(SS) Moses's Intercession (Exodus 33:12–23)
(CC) Temple Conflicts: Is it Lawful to Pay Caesar? (Matthew 22:15–22)
- WEEK 10 ❖ 10/25/20**
Proper 25, Lectionary 30
(SS) Moses's Death and Burial (Deuteronomy 34:1–12)
(CC) Temple Conflicts: The Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:34–46)
- WEEK 11 ❖ 11/1/20**
Proper 26, Lectionary 31
(SS) Joshua and Israel Cross the Jordan (Joshua 3:7–17)
(CC) Temple Conflicts: Do What the Scribes Teach, Not What They Do (Matthew 23:1–12)
- WEEK 12 ❖ 11/8/20**
Proper 27, Lectionary 32
(SS) Joshua and the Covenant Renewal (Joshua 24:1–28)
(CC) Be Ready: Parable of the Bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1–13)
- WEEK 13 ❖ 11/15/20**
Proper 28, Lectionary 33
(SS) Deborah and Barak (Judges 4:1–23)
(CC) Be Ready: Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14–30)
- WEEK 14 ❖ 11/22/20**
Reign of Christ
Proper 29, Lectionary 34
(SS) God the Good Shepherd (Feast of Christ the King) (Ezekiel 34:1–24)
(CC) Be Ready: Parable of the King, Sheep, and Goats (Matthew 25:31–46)

HEARTS ALIVE

SCOPE & SEQUENCE | Lectionary year B

WINTER | YEAR B

- WEEK 1 ❖ 11/29/20**
Advent 1
(SS) God Wants to Give Us a Gift (His Presence) (1 Corinthians 1:1–9)
(CC) O Shepherd, Stir Up Your Power (Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19)
- WEEK 2 ❖ 12/6/20**
Advent 2
(SS) Jesus Will Give the Baptism of the Spirit (Mark 1:1–8)
(CC) The Lord God Comes with Might (Isaiah 40:1–11)
- WEEK 3 ❖ 12/13/20**
Advent 3
(SS) Don't Quench the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:16–24)
(CC) Like People Who Dream (Psalm 126)
- WEEK 4 ❖ 12/20/20**
Advent 4
(SS) The Spirit Will Come upon Mary (Luke 1:26–38)
(CC) Mary's Song of Praise (Luke 1:46–55)
- WEEK 5 ❖ 12/27/20**
Christmas 1
(SS) We Are God's Children by the Spirit of Adoption (Luke 2:22–40)
(CC) Messiah Blesses All Creation (Psalm 148)
- WEEK 6 ❖ (1/3/21)**
Christmas 2
(SS) Children Born of God (John 1:1–18)
(CC) Messiah Blesses His People (Psalm 147:12–20)
- WEEK 7 ❖ 1/10/21**
Baptism of the Lord-Lectionary 1
(SS) Revelation of Jesus As the Son of God (Mark 1:4–11)
(CC) Baptized into Jesus (Acts 19:1–7)
- WEEK 8 ❖ 1/17/21**
Epiphany 2-Lectionary 2
(SS) Revelation of God through Jesus (John 1:43–51)
(CC) Raised By God's Power—A Temple of His Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:12–20)
- WEEK 9 ❖ 1/24/21**
Epiphany 3-Lectionary 3
(SS) Revelation of the Kingdom and Call to Follow (Mark 1:14–20)
(CC) Commitment to Family and God (1 Corinthians 7:29–31)
- WEEK 10 ❖ 1/31/21**
Epiphany 4-Lectionary 4
(SS) Revelation by a Demon of Jesus's Identity (Mark 1:21–28)
(CC) Help Each Other Stand (1 Corinthians 8:1–13)
- WEEK 11 ❖ 2/7/21**
Epiphany 5-Lectionary 5
(SS) Revelation of Jesus As Healer (Mark 1:29–39)
(CC) All for the Sake of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:16–23)
- WEEK 12 ❖ 2/14/21**
Transfiguration Sunday
(SS) Revelation of the Divine Glory of Jesus (Mark 9:2–9)
(CC) We Proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord (2 Corinthians 4:3–6)

SPRING | YEAR B

- WEEK 1 ❖ 2/21/21**
Lent 1
(SS) God's Covenant with Noah (Genesis 9:8–17)
(CC) Passing through the Waters to New Life (1 Peter 3:18–22)
- WEEK 2 ❖ 2/28/21**
Lent 2
(SS) God's Covenant with Abraham (Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16)
(CC) Abraham Grows Strong in Faith (Romans 4:13–25)
- WEEK 3 ❖ 3/7/21**
Lent 3
(SS) God's Covenant with Moses: Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1–17)
(CC) God's Power and Wisdom in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:18–25)
- WEEK 4 ❖ 3/14/21**
Lent 4
(SS) New Covenant: Promise of Forgiveness in Jesus (John 3:14–21)
(CC) The Gift of God (Ephesians 2:1–10)
- WEEK 5 ❖ 3/21/21**
Lent 5
(SS) Jesus's New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31–34)
(CC) Jesus Our Obedient, Perfect Priest (Hebrews 5:5–10)
- WEEK 6 ❖ 3/28/21**
Palm Sunday
(SS) The Cross of Jesus (Philippians 2:5–11)
(CC) Triumphal Entry (Mark 11:1–11)
- WEEK 7 ❖ 4/4/21**
Easter Sunday
(SS) Jesus Is Alive! (John 20:1–18 or Mark 16:1–8)
(CC) Of First Importance (1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or Acts 10:34–43)
- WEEK 8 ❖ 4/11/21**
Easter 2
(SS) New Life through Belief and the Spirit (John 20:19–31)
(CC) True Fellowship (1 John 1:1–2:2)
- WEEK 9 ❖ 4/18/21**
Easter 3
(SS) New Life by Seeing Jesus (Luke 24:36b–48)
(CC) True Children (1 John 3:1–7)
- WEEK 10 ❖ 4/25/21**
Easter 4
(SS) New Life by Following the Good Shepherd (John 10:11–18)
(CC) True Service (1 John 3:16–24)
- WEEK 11 ❖ 5/2/21**
Easter 5
(SS) New Life by Being Connected to the Vine (John 15:1–8)
(CC) True Love (1 John 4:7–21)
- WEEK 12 ❖ 5/9/21**
Easter 6
(SS) New Life by Love (John 15:9–17)
(CC) True Obedience (1 John 5:1–6)
- WEEK 13 ❖ 5/16/21**
Easter 7
(SS) New Life through Jesus's Prayer (John 17:6–19)
(CC) True Confidence and Testimony (1 John 5:9–13)

HEARTS ALIVE

SCOPE & SEQUENCE | Lectionary year B

SUMMER | YEAR B (CHILDREN'S CHURCH)

- WEEK 1 ❖ 5/23/21**
Day of Pentecost
(SS) Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1–21)
(CC) Outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Ezekiel 37:1–14)
- WEEK 2 ❖ 5/30/21**
Trinity Sunday
(SS) Isaiah's Glorious Vision (Isaiah 6:1–8)
(CC) Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Romans 8:12–17)
- WEEK 3 ❖ 6/6/21**
Proper 5, Lectionary 10
(CC) Christian Maturity: Eternal Perspective (2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1)
- WEEK 4 ❖ 6/13/21**
Proper 6, Lectionary 11
(CC) Christian Maturity: New Creation (2 Corinthians 5)
- WEEK 5 ❖ 6/20/21**
Proper 7, Lectionary 12
(CC) Christian Maturity: Service through Suffering (2 Corinthians 6:1–13)
- WEEK 6 ❖ 6/27/21**
Proper 8, Lectionary 13
(CC) Christian Maturity: Generosity (2 Corinthians 8:7–15)
- WEEK 7 ❖ 7/4/21**
Proper 9, Lectionary 14
(CC) Christian Maturity: Power in Weakness (2 Corinthians 12:2–10)
- WEEK 8 ❖ 7/11/21**
Proper 10, Lectionary 15
(CC) Spirit-Filled Church: Adoption as Spiritual Children (Ephesians 1:3–14)
- WEEK 9 ❖ 7/18/21**
Proper 11, Lectionary 16
(CC) Spirit-Filled Church: Members of God's Family (Ephesians 2:11–22)
- WEEK 10 ❖ 7/25/21**
Proper 12, Lectionary 17
(CC) Spirit-Filled Church: Unimaginable Power (Ephesians 3:14–21)
- WEEK 11 ❖ 8/1/21**
Proper 13, Lectionary 18
(CC) Spirit-Filled Church: One Body, Different Parts (Ephesians 4:1–16)
- WEEK 12 ❖ 8/8/21**
Proper 14, Lectionary 19
(CC) Spirit-Filled Church: Follow Christ's Example (Ephesians 4:25—5:2)
- WEEK 13 ❖ 8/15/21**
Proper 15, Lectionary 20
(CC) Spirit-Filled Church: Wise Living (Ephesians 5:15–20)
- WEEK 12 ❖ 8/22/21**
Proper 16, Lectionary 21
(CC) Spirit-Filled Church: The Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10–20)

FALL | YEAR B

- WEEK 1 ❖ 8/29/21**
Proper 17, Lectionary 22
(SS) Living in Wisdom: "Song of the Beloved" (Song of Solomon 2:8–13)
(CC) Walking in Wisdom: Hearing and Doing (James 1:17–27)
- WEEK 2 ❖ 9/7/21**
Proper 18, Lectionary 23
(SS) Living in Wisdom: Justice and Mercy (Proverbs 22:1–2, 8–9, 22–23)
(CC) Walking in Wisdom: Showing Faith by Action (James 2:1–10, 14–17)
- WEEK 3 ❖ 9/12/21**
Proper 19, Lectionary 24
(SS) Living in Wisdom: Lady Wisdom's Invitation (Proverbs 1:20–33)
(CC) Walking in Wisdom: Controlling Your Tongue (James 3:1–12)
- WEEK 4 ❖ 9/19/21**
Proper 20, Lectionary 25
(SS) Living in Wisdom: The Wise Wife (Proverbs 31:10–31)
(CC) Walking in Wisdom: Two Kinds of Wisdom (James 3:13—4:3, 7–8a)
- WEEK 5 ❖ 9/26/21**
Proper 21, Lectionary 26
(SS) Exile (Monarchy's Failure): Esther's Bravery (Esther 7:1–6, 9–10; 9:20–22)
(CC) Walking in Wisdom: Pray in All Circumstances (James 5:13–20)
- WEEK 6 ❖ 10/3/21**
Proper 22, Lectionary 27
(SS) Job's Sorrowful Test (Job 1:1; 2:1–10)
(CC) Worship in the Living Temple: Jesus Is the Head of All Things (Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–12)
- WEEK 7 ❖ 10/10/21**
Proper 23, Lectionary 28
(SS) Job's Lament (Job 23:1–9, 16–17)
(CC) Worship in the Living Temple: Jesus Is a Compassionate High Priest (Hebrews 4:12–16)
- WEEK 8 ❖ 10/17/21**
Proper 24, Lectionary 29
(SS) Job's Conversation with God (Job 38:1–7, 34–41)
(CC) Worship in the Living Temple: God Appointed Jesus High Priest (Hebrews 5:1–10)
- WEEK 9 ❖ 10/25/21**
Proper 25, Lectionary 30
(SS) Job's Restoration (Job 42:1–6, 10–17)
(CC) Worship in the Living Temple: Jesus Made One Sacrifice for All (Hebrews 7:23–28)
- WEEK 10 ❖ 10/31/21**
Proper 26, Lectionary 31
(SS) Restoration: Ruth and Naomi (Ruth 1:1–18)
(CC) Worship in the Living Temple: Better Than the Blood of Goats (Hebrews 9:11–14)
- WEEK 11 ❖ 11/7/21**
Proper 27, Lectionary 32
(SS) Restoration: Ruth and Boaz and Baby Obed (Ruth 3:1–5; 4:13–17)
(CC) Worship in the Living Temple: Jesus Will Return from Heaven (Hebrews 9:24–28)
- WEEK 12 ❖ 11/14/21**
Proper 28, Lectionary 33
(SS) Restoration: Hannah's Prayer (1 Samuel 1:4–20)
(CC) Worship in the Living Temple: Drawing Near to God (Hebrews 10:11–25)
- WEEK 13 ❖ 11/21/21**
Reign of Christ
Proper 29, Lectionary 34
(SS) Restoration: David's Final Prayer (2 Samuel 23:1–7)
(CC) Christ the King: Returning in Glory (Revelation 1:4b–8)

HEARTS ALIVE

SCOPE & SEQUENCE | lectionary year C

WINTER | YEAR C

- WEEK 1 ❖ 12/2/18**
Advent 1
(SS) Be Alert (Luke 21:25–36)
(CC) Messianic Promises: Righteousness (Jeremiah 33:14–16)
- WEEK 2 ❖ 12/9/18**
Advent 2
(SS) Prepare the Way (Luke 3:1–6)
(CC) Messianic Promise: Refining (Malachi 3:1–4)
- WEEK 3 ❖ 12/16/18**
Advent 3
(SS) Rejoice (Philippians 4:4–7)
(CC) Messianic Promise: Restoration (Zephaniah 3:14–20)
- WEEK 4 ❖ 12/23/18**
Advent 4
(SS) Magnify the Lord (Luke 1:39–55)
(CC) Messianic Promise: Rule (Micah 5:2–5a)
- WEEK 5 ❖ 12/30/18**
Christmas 1
(SS) The Peace of Christ Rule Our Hearts (Colossians 3:12–17)
(CC) Growth in Stature and Favor in the Lord (1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26)
- WEEK 6 ❖ 1/6/19**
Epiphany of the Lord
(SS) Visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1–12)
(CC) Mystery Revealed (Ephesians 3:1–12)
- WEEK 7 ❖ 1/13/19**
Baptism of the Lord
Lectionary 1
(SS) Baptism (Luke 3:15–17, 21–22)
(CC) Receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14–17)
- WEEK 8 ❖ 1/20/19**
Epiphany 2–Lectionary 2
(SS) Jesus's First Sign at Cana (John 2:1–11)
(CC) Spiritual Gifts: Different Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1–11)
- WEEK 9 ❖ 1/27/19**
Epiphany 3–Lectionary 3
(SS) Jesus's Call: Sermon in the Temple (Luke 4:14–21)
(CC) Spiritual Gifts: One Body (1 Corinthians 12:12–31a)
- WEEK 10 ❖ 2/3/19**
Epiphany 4–Lectionary 4
(SS) Jesus's Call: Rejected in Nazareth (Luke 4:21–30)
(CC) Spiritual Maturity: Love (1 Corinthians 13:1–13)
- WEEK 11 ❖ 2/10/19**
Epiphany 5–Lectionary 5
(SS) Our Call: Disciples (Luke 5:1–11)
(CC) The Heart of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1–11)
- WEEK 12 ❖ 2/17/19**
Epiphany 6
Proper 1, Lectionary 6
(SS) Jesus's Way: Blessings and Woes (Luke 6:17–26)
(CC) The Resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:12–20)
- WEEK 13 ❖ 2/24/19**
Epiphany 7
Proper 2, Lectionary 7
(SS) Jesus's Way: Love Your Enemies (Luke 6:27–38)
(CC) What Will Our Resurrection Be Like? (1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50)
- WEEK 14 ❖ 3/3/19**
Transfiguration Sunday
(SS) Transfiguration: Turn to the Cross (Luke 9:28–43)
(CC) Glory: We Will Be Transfigured! (2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2)

SPRING | YEAR C

- WEEK 1 ❖ 3/10/19**
Lent 1
(SS) Faith to Salvation: Call on the Name (Romans 10:8b–13)
(CC) Prayers for Salvation (Psalm 91:1–2, 9–16)
- WEEK 2 ❖ 3/17/19**
Lent 2
(SS) Personal Relationship: Jesus Longing as Mother Hen (Philippians 3:17–4:1)
(CC) Prayers for Relationship (Psalm 27)
- WEEK 3 ❖ 3/24/19**
Lent 3
(SS) Resisting Temptation: Repentance and Fruit (Luke 13:1–9)
(CC) Prayers for Longing for God (Psalm 63:1–8)
- WEEK 4 ❖ 3/31/19**
Lent 4
(SS) Reconciliation: Parable of the Lost Son and Elder Brother (Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32)
(CC) Prayers for God's Presence (Psalm 32)
- WEEK 5 ❖ 4/7/19**
Lent 5
(SS) Extravagant Surrender: Mary Anoints Jesus's Feet (John 12:1–8)
(CC) Prayers for Restoration (Psalm 126)
- WEEK 6 ❖ 4/14/19**
Palm Sunday
(SS) Cross of Jesus (Philippians 2:5–11)
(CC) Liturgy of the Passion (Luke 22:14–23:56)
- WEEK 7 ❖ 4/21/19**
Easter
(SS) Resurrection (Luke 24:1–12)
(CC) Resurrection of the Lord (John 20:1–18 or Luke 24:1–12)
- WEEK 8 ❖ 4/28/19**
Easter 2
(SS) Visions of Heaven: Glory and Power (Revelation 1:4–8)
(CC) Resurrection: Doubting Thomas Believes (John 20:19–31)
- WEEK 9 ❖ 5/5/19**
Easter 3
(SS) Visions of Heaven: Worthy Is the Lamb (Revelation 5:11–14)
(CC) Resurrection: Denying Peter Is Restored (John 21:1–19)
- WEEK 10 ❖ 5/12/19**
Easter 4
(SS) Visions of Heaven: The Multitude Worshiping Christ (Revelation 7:9–17)
(CC) Resurrection: Jesus's Sheep Hear His Voice (John 10:22–30)
- WEEK 11 ❖ 5/19/19**
Easter 5
(SS) Visions of Heaven: New Heaven and New Earth (Revelation 21:1–6)
(CC) Resurrection: The New Commandment (John 13:31–35)
- WEEK 12 ❖ 5/26/19**
Easter 6
(SS) Visions of Heaven: The New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5)
(CC) Resurrection: The Promise of the Holy Spirit (John 14:23–29 or John 5:1–9)
- WEEK 13 ❖ 6/2/19**
Easter 7
(SS) Visions of Heaven: Gold and Jewels (Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21)
(CC) Resurrection: Jesus's High Priestly Prayer (John 17:20–26)

HEARTS ALIVE

SCOPE & SEQUENCE | Lectionary year C

SUMMER | YEAR C (CHILDREN'S CHURCH)

WEEK 1 ❖ 6/9/19 Day of Pentecost	(CC) Pentecost Day (Acts 2:1–21)
WEEK 2 ❖ 6/16/19 Trinity Sunday	(CC) Trinity Sunday: Who is Man? (Psalm 8)
WEEK 3 ❖ 6/23/19 Proper 7, Lectionary 12	(CC) Galatians: Gospel Children (Galatians 3:23–29)
WEEK 4 ❖ 6/30/19 Proper 8, Lectionary 13	(CC) Galatians: Gospel Character (Galatians 5:1, 13–25)
WEEK 5 ❖ 7/7/19 Proper 9, Lectionary 14	(CC) Galatians: Gospel Application (Galatians 6:1–16)
WEEK 6 ❖ 7/14/19 Proper 10, Lectionary 15	(CC) Colossians: Truth of the Gospel (Colossians 1:1–14)
WEEK 7 ❖ 7/21/19 Proper 11, Lectionary 16	(CC) Colossians: Supremacy of the Gospel (Colossians 1:15–28)
WEEK 8 ❖ 7/28/19 Proper 12, Lectionary 17	(CC) Colossians: Sufficiency of the Gospel (Colossians 2:6–19)
WEEK 9 ❖ 8/4/19 Proper 13, Lectionary 18	(CC) Colossians: Seeking the Life of the Gospel (Colossians 3:1–11)
WEEK 10 ❖ 8/11/19 Proper 14, Lectionary 19	(CC) Following Jesus on the Way: God's Kingdom (Luke 12:32–40)
WEEK 11 ❖ 8/18/19 Proper 15, Lectionary 20	(CC) Following Jesus on the Way: Watching for His Return (Luke 12:49–56)

FALL | YEAR C

WEEK 1 ❖ 8/25/19 Proper 16, Lectionary 21	(SS) Jeremiah's Call (Jeremiah 1:4–10) (CC) Following Jesus on the Way: Jesus is Master (Luke 13:10–17)
WEEK 2 ❖ 9/1/19 Proper 17, Lectionary 22	(SS) Jeremiah's Warning to Judah (Jeremiah 2:4–13) (CC) Following Jesus on the Way: Please God, Not People (Luke 14:1, 7–14)
WEEK 3 ❖ 9/8/19 Proper 18, Lectionary 23	(SS) Jeremiah's Message: Potter and Clay (Jeremiah 18:1–11) (CC) Following Jesus on the Way: Counting the Cost (Luke 14:25–33)
WEEK 4 ❖ 9/15/19 Proper 19, Lectionary 24	(SS) Jeremiah's Warning: Creation Reversed (Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28) (CC) Following Jesus on the Way: Seeking the Lost (Luke 15:1–10)
WEEK 5 ❖ 9/22/19 Proper 20, Lectionary 25	(SS) Jeremiah Laments for His People (Jeremiah 8:18—9:1) (CC) Following Jesus on the Way: Serving Only One Master (Luke 16:1–13)
WEEK 6 ❖ 9/29/19 Proper 21, Lectionary 26	(SS) Jeremiah Buys a Field in Hope (Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15) (CC) Following Jesus on the Way: Don't Wait to Do Good (Luke 16:19–31)
WEEK 7 ❖ 10/6/19 Proper 22, Lectionary 27	(SS) Lament for Judah's Fall (Lamentations 1:1–6) (CC) Following Jesus on the Way: Servants Honor the Master (Luke 17:5–10)
WEEK 8 ❖ 10/13/19 Proper 23, Lectionary 28	(SS) Jeremiah's Letter to the Exiles (Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7) (CC) Following Jesus on the Way: Showing Jesus Our Gratitude (Luke 17:11–19)
WEEK 9 ❖ 10/20/19 Proper 24, Lectionary 29	(SS) Jeremiah Promises a New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:27–34) (CC) Following Jesus on the Way: Keep on Praying (Luke 18:1–8)
WEEK 10 ❖ 10/27/19 Proper 25, Lectionary 30	(SS) Restoration's Outpoured Spirit (Joel 2:23–32) (CC) Following Jesus on the Way: Humbling Ourselves (Luke 18:9–14)
WEEK 11 ❖ 11/3/19 Proper 26, Lectionary 31	(SS) Habakkuk's Difficult Question (Habakkuk 1:1–4, 2:1–4) (CC) Following Jesus on the Way: Repenting with Joy (Luke 19:1–10)
WEEK 12 ❖ 11/10/19 Proper 27, Lectionary 32	(SS) Restoration's Promised New Temple (Haggai 1:15b—2:9) (CC) Following Jesus on the Way: Alive Forever (Luke 20:27–38)
WEEK 13 ❖ 11/17/19 Proper 28, Lectionary 33	(SS) Restoration's Promised New Creation (Isaiah 65:17–25) (CC) Following Jesus on the Way: Suffering for the Kingdom (Luke 21:5–19)
WEEK 14 ❖ 11/24/19 Reign of Christ Proper 29, Lectionary 34	(SS) God the Good Shepherd (Jeremiah 23:1–6) (CC) Christ the Crucified King (Luke 23:33–43)

BIBLE STUDY MEDIA

PRE-K – K SUNDAY SCHOOL

HEARTS

A GOSPEL LECTIONARY CURRICULUM

ALIVE

YEAR A

WINTER

New Growth Press, Greensboro, NC 27404
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WELCOME TO HEARTS ALIVE

In the line of Christian formation resources for children, the *Hearts Alive* curriculum is something brand-new! We have listened to the desire of churches to have a fully integrated weekly worship experience in which children and adults are engaged in exploring the same scriptural texts. Each lesson in both the Sunday school and Children's church curricula is built on one or more readings taken from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a three-year cycle of Bible readings used by churches across denominations and around the world to guide weekly worship. By aligning the lessons of *Hearts Alive* to these common readings, families are able to have cross-generational discussions related to the worship service message, Sunday school, and Children's church teachings.

While *Hearts Alive* is a natural fit for churches in the liturgical tradition that incorporate regular use of the RCL, its appeal is much broader. *Hearts Alive* is evangelical in its interpretation of Scripture and contemporary in its teaching style and life application. By using a sequential approach to Scripture teaching, *Hearts Alive* seeks to help churches train up young disciples in the whole Word of God, emphasizing a high view of scriptural authority and a gospel focus. The weekly age-specific lessons support and even elevate liturgical traditions as well as important observances in the church calendar while using clear and contemporary teaching techniques to present the Word of God in ways that will produce lifelong followers of Christ. *Hearts Alive* is flexible enough to fit any congregation, no matter how large or small, of any Christian denomination.

HEARTS ALIVE IS:

- ▶ Gospel-centered, emphasizing the story of salvation through Jesus Christ in every lesson.
- ▶ Scriptural, teaching the full scope of the Bible over a 3-year span following the RCL.
- ▶ User-friendly, making it easy for teachers and Christian educators to implement.
- ▶ Fun and engaging for children, offering age-appropriate storytelling, crafts, and activities.
- ▶ Family-oriented, providing a Take-Home page so parents and children can apply the lesson with activities throughout the week.
- ▶ Varied, offering both small- and large-group moments so children stay interested and engaged.
- ▶ Cost-effective for both small and large churches, available for quarterly purchase with price adjustments for volume.
- ▶ Downloadable, in a format that is easy to share with a whole team of leaders and volunteers.



What Each Lesson Provides

Each weekly *Hearts Alive* lesson provides two hours of material for children ranging from Pre-K/Kindergarten through Grade 6. The curriculum is divided into two categories: Sunday school and Children's church. These two distinct curricula offer different themes for each week's lesson so that children participating in both programs have fresh, engaging material in each class.

Sunday School Curriculum:

The *Hearts Alive* Sunday school curriculum is designed to be used during the Sunday school or Bible study hour of a church's weekly worship time. It is divided into three separate age groups and perfect for use in classroom-sized group settings. The age divisions are: Pre-K/Kindergarten, Lower Elementary (grades 1–3), and Upper Elementary (grades 4–6).

Children's Church Curriculum:

The *Hearts Alive* Children's church curriculum offers a weekly church experience tailored just for young followers of Jesus. It is intended for a larger, age-inclusive setting for children from pre-K through grade 5 (ages 4 through 11) designed to help them learn the basics of an adult worship service, including Welcome, Worship, Scripture Reading, Lesson, Creed, Prayer, and Offering. The larger group setting encourages children of varying ages to worship together, mirroring the generational integration of the church. At the close of each lesson, an age-specific breakout time ensures that every child, from the youngest to the oldest, can take part in a follow-up game, craft, or activity that will help them apply the week's lesson to their own lives. Many churches hold Children's church during the first part of the adult worship service. After Children's church concludes, there is time to welcome the children into the adult service for the final portion, often the celebration of Communion/the Eucharist.

How To Use The *Hearts Alive* Curriculum

Hearts Alive follows the 3-year cycle of the RCL. Because liturgical dates vary from year to year, specific dates are not assigned to the lessons. Instead, lessons are numbered and an accompanying online chart identifies which lesson falls on which calendar date for that specific year. In the heading of each lesson, you will find the Lectionary Year, Season, and Week number, plus the associated liturgical day (if applicable) and lectionary reading. This information can help you design your entire congregation's weekly worship experience around shared themes all year, providing a fresh unity to your congregation's spiritual focus and growth.

The first page of each Sunday school and Children's church lesson includes Lesson Title, Key Scripture, Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Lesson Overview. The Big Idea summarizes in one or two sentences the main point you want the children to learn from that day's lesson. The Lesson Overview provides a more in-depth explanation of the key points of the lesson.



Next, there is a Lesson Outline chart to help you stay organized. It tells you what happens when. On this chart, you'll find each lesson component along with a time estimate for how long it will take, a list of the supplies you will need, and a list of the things you'll need to prepare before class for that activity.

A unique Bible Background study is provided for each lesson to help you prepare your heart and mind as a leader or volunteer before class. It aims to provide a thorough understanding of the biblical setting of the day's passage along with any helpful information to help you field questions the children may have about the lesson. (Detailed explanations of each lesson component follow below.)

Anything that needs to be printed and possibly copied for each lesson (the "printables") are included in the download of each lesson. They are designed to be effective using simple black and white printing on standard-sized paper.

Finally, each lesson has a Take-Home page designed to be copied and sent home with the child. The resource is directed either toward parents (Sunday school) or children (Children's church). Either way, parents are encouraged to use the resource to talk with their child about the week's lesson. The page also suggests ways to apply scriptural lessons all week through family discussions and activities.

The Sunday School Curriculum

The Sunday school curriculum is divided by age group into: Pre-K/Kindergarten, Lower Elementary (grades 1–3), and Upper Elementary (grades 4–6). The lessons are designed for use in small group settings of approximately 10–12 children. If you expect more than 18 children in a room, we recommend dividing into smaller groups so all children feel engaged in the activities. If your group is smaller than 9 or 10, the games and activities can be adapted for fewer children.

Each weekly Sunday school lesson contains the following sequential Lesson Elements:

- ▶ **Welcome Activity** – An attention grabber designed for the beginning of class as you wait for latecomers to arrive.
- ▶ **Lesson Introduction** – A group activity to start the children thinking about the Big Idea and its application.
- ▶ **Scripture Story** – An engaging way to tell the story of the Key Scripture passage. It may include visual aids, drama, costumes, simple experiments, or props.
- ▶ **Story Discussion** – Discussion questions varied according to age group. We provide suggested answers for some of the trickier questions to aid you in your discussion with the children.



► **Variable Elements** – The below elements are variable to keep each week’s approach fresh.

- **Memory Verse Activity**
- **Snack**
- **Craft** – Step-by-step directions and illustrations are provided at the end of each lesson.
- **Music** – You may choose to find your own recordings or sing the songs with instrument accompaniment or without musical background.
- **Game**
- **Other Lesson Application Activities**

► **Closing Activity** – A simple and quick activity that allows you to bring the lesson to a close. Hand out the “Live It All Week” Take-Home page during this part of the lesson, and make sure children take home any crafts or activity pages.

A Special Note to Leaders

Congratulations on your role in helping to shape young hearts and minds in the Christian faith. Sunday school is a time-honored tradition of inviting the youngest of Christ’s family to get to know their Savior, their church family, and their place in the Kingdom of God through weekly teaching and hands-on participation. We have specifically designed the *Hearts Alive* curriculum to be everything you need to confidently lead an engaging time of worship, learning, and fun in the service of Christian formation. Here are a few specifics about the curriculum to help you in your role:

- *Hearts Alive* uses the New International Reader’s Version (NIRV) of The Holy Scriptures, believing it is the easiest translation for children to read and understand while remaining faithful to the original text. If you choose, you may use a different version in your lessons.
- We have included a unique Bible Background section specifically to help you get familiar with the background of the week’s passage of Scripture. It provides the setting of the passage in the overall story of the Bible, the connection to the life and work of Jesus Christ, and how the passage speaks to the church today. We recommend taking some time to read, pray through, and digest this information to help you be prepared for questions and good discussion.
- Much of the Lesson Content is bolded and prefaced by words like “Say:” or “Continue:” These sections are designed for you, the leader, to speak aloud. However, we suggest that you use



the words as a guide rather than reading directly from the page. The most effective way to communicate with children is by making eye contact. Try reading the lesson several times to get a good idea of what you want to say and the main points of the Bible teaching. You may want to highlight the sections you want to be sure to mention specifically. Other parts you can put into your own words. Have the lesson handy to refer to on paper or electronic device as you go.

- Feel free to adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of your class. If a different approach to the lesson works better, go for it! For example, you may choose to swap out drama for a visual aid in the lesson or vice versa. Use what is written as a guide to present the beauty and power of God's Word to your group of children in the most effective way possible.

Jesus said to "*let the children come to me.*" What greater calling can there be than helping to lead precious young souls to the heart of God and the joy, peace, and power of living the Christian faith? We pray that you will find the *Hearts Alive* curriculum an exciting and effective way to bring the wonderful message of salvation to the children of your congregation and community even as your entire church body unites in the weekly exploration of God's Word as one.



Prophecy and Expectation: The Mountain of the LORD

Isaiah 2:1–5

Big Idea:

One day, on God's holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires.
Praise God—this time is coming!

Memory Verse:

"Let us go up to the LORD's mountain."
Isaiah 2:3a



Lesson Overview

This lesson introduces the meaning of *advent*: coming. This year, the Advent lessons focus on God's promises. We should wait with expectation for those promises because we have seen repeatedly that God always keeps his promises. This first week of Advent centers on God's promise to rule and reign from his holy mountain in the New Jerusalem. Though now we have war and strife, God promises a future of peace with Jesus as King.



	Week 1 Lesson Plan	Activity and Supplies	To Prepare
1	Welcome Activity (10 minutes)	Transformed Dough • Playdough (one handful for each child)	Roll the dough into balls (one for each child).
2	Lesson Introduction (5 minutes)	Make a Mountain • Playdough from the Welcome Activity • Medium-size mixing bowl	
3	Scripture Story (10 minutes)	The Mountain of the Lord Printables: Figures (one for each child) • Toothpicks (one for each child) • Tape • Scissors • Bible • Playdough mountain from Introduction	Copy and cut apart the printable figures. Fold them along the dotted line and tape them to the toothpicks to make little puppets (one for each child).
4	Discussion (5 minutes)		
5	Memory Verse Activity (5 minutes)	Climb and Sing • Mountain from the Lesson Introduction • Figures from the Scripture Story • Optional: Music player with Web access • Optional: Visit YouTube and search for “Joy to the World—Instrumental” by Isaac Watts. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKcw7wrxyc	Queue the song for class.
6	Snack (10 minutes)	Mountain Snack • Fruit cups (one for each child) • Teddy bear graham cookies • Spoons • Small plates • Optional: Video player with Web access • Optional: Visit YouTube and search for “Joy to the World” by Listener Kids. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TGPokt-Z3M	Gather the supplies and queue the video for class.
7	Craft (10 minutes)	Holy Mountain Ornament Printables: Tiny Temple (one for each child) • Craft sticks (three for each child) • Yarn, ribbon, or twine (one 6-in. length for each child) • Craft glue • Crayons • Optional: Markers, small stickers, or tiny pompoms	Copy and cut out the printables. Gather the remaining supplies.
8	Closing (5 minutes)	Four, Three, Two, One—Jesus! Printables: Take-home page (one for each child)	Make enough copies of the Take-home page for each child.



Continuing his discourse from the previous chapter, Isaiah the prophet speaks to the Jews of his day. While the Jews were outwardly keeping traditions, they were not following God's law in their hearts. Isaiah reminded them of their position among the nations, the chosen people of God: The Lord and his holy mountain, Zion, are higher than all the other gods and their mountains (Isaiah 2:2). Mount Zion is not the highest mountain because of its physical height; rather, it is "the mountain of the Lord," the dwelling place of the God of Israel, the god higher than all other gods. As his people, the Jews ought to live as God taught them, as a guide to all nations. They ought to be aware that, in the end, God's ways will be the ways of all people.

Old Testament. Old Testament prophets were people from every walk of life. Unlike the Levitical priesthood, which was hereditary, prophets came from a variety of backgrounds. Most often the prophets spoke to the nation of Israel on God's behalf. They also spoke to Judah after the kingdom was divided. Isaiah is one of the "major prophets," a designation determined by the length of his writings. Prophets were considered God's voice for their generation; yet, we need to consider and carefully interpret their words as God's voice to all generations, since there are events still to come.

In the first chapters of Isaiah, the prophet exposes the wrongdoing and wandering hearts of God's people. They were content in their sin. Isaiah's prophecy is to his generation, but also for the future. God desires a relationship with his people and his plan is that all nations, not just Israel, will know him through Christ Jesus. In Israel's history, Mount Zion was the physical mountain where the temple stood and the place where God's presence was known to dwell. Isaiah is prophesying about the future when

God's people, the church, will be made up of all nations. There will be no more war; everyone will live together in peace because everyone will know and love the God of their salvation. Considering this, Isaiah tells the people to live now as God has taught them.

Jesus. During his ministry, Jesus referred to believers as a city set on a hill (Matthew 5:14) and a light to the Gentiles (Acts 13:47). These and other metaphors indicate that God's fame would spread throughout the nations. The coming of all nations to Zion (his church) occurs between the two advents of Jesus—his first as the babe in the manger and the suffering servant, and the second as Judge and King (Isaiah 2:4).

The Church and the World. When the word *Zion* is used prophetically in Scripture, it refers to the church and coming kingdom of God. While we wait for the Second Advent, we can experience the kingdom of God in our lives by the Holy Spirit's power. The presence of God lives no longer on the temple mount, but in us. God teaches us how to live, both by the Scriptures and by the Holy Spirit's prompting. As the apostle Paul says in Romans 14:17, "God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit."

We are the city on a hill; we are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is what Jesus said about us. We are to live as he taught us to live, to treat others as he demonstrated. There is a peace—an absence of turmoil and war where the Holy Spirit dwells. This makes God famous and draws others to want to know him. This has been God's plan from the beginning. As believers in Jesus, as the citizens of God's kingdom on earth, and as the Zion of God, the church is to live lives worthy of the gospel of Christ and be his witnesses to the uttermost parts of the earth.



1 Welcome Activity

To Prepare:

Roll the dough into balls (one for each child).

Transformed Dough

Distribute the dough. Say: **Do you think we should keep this dough in balls, or should we shape it into something new? Go ahead! You can roll it, twist it, flatten it, and shape it into your very own creation. After a few minutes, we'll make something different.** Allow the children several minutes to shape and form the dough.

2 Lesson Introduction

Make a Mountain

Set the bowl upside down on the table. Say: **Now let's combine our dough to make a mountain. We'll pretend it is the biggest mountain in the whole world! This bowl will be the base of the mountain, and our dough will be the peak.** Have each child stick their dough on top of the bowl. Then mold it into the shape of a mountain peak.

Would you like to climb a mountain one day? Can you imagine climbing to the top of the tallest mountain in the world? What do you think you could see from the top? Let the children respond. Answers might include: clouds, snow, birds, tiny buildings or people, etc. **That would be amazing! Imagine seeing the world from up high! We can look forward to climbing a mountain one day.**

Today our Bible story is about a very tall and good mountain. Let's read our Bible to find out about it. Keep the mountain on the table for the Scripture Story.

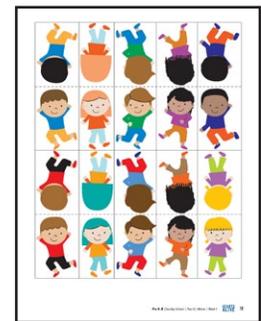
3 Scripture Story

To Prepare:

Copy and cut apart the printable figures. Fold them along the dotted line and tape them to the toothpicks to make little puppets (one for each child).

The Mountain of the Lord

Set the printables on the table near the "mountain." Open the Bible on your lap. Say: **Christmas is coming in four weeks. Now, we are in the Advent season. Can you say, "Advent"?** (Advent) **It comes right before Christmas. The word *Advent* means coming.**



Imagine that you have a grandma who lives in another state, and she is the most fun, most wonderful grandma in the



whole world. One day, your parents tell you, “Grandma is coming to visit very soon!” You are so excited! You wonder what you will do together. Will you visit special places? Will you play games together? Will you eat yummy treats? You can’t wait until she arrives. You count down the days. You know you will see your grandma soon because she has *promised* to come.

God makes promises to us as well. We can read his promises in the Bible. Hold up the Bible. **The Bible is the Word of God. Today we will learn about a promise God has made to us.**

People sometimes break their promises. Let’s imagine again about your grandma coming to visit. She promises you she will come on Tuesday, but then there is a big snowstorm. Her plane can’t take off in that weather, and so she can’t visit you that day. How disappointing!

God never disappoints us because he always, always keeps his promises! Long ago, he promised his people that he would send someone to save them. They waited and waited, and then their Savior came. He came on Christmas Day. Do you know the name of the Savior? (Jesus) **God kept his promise by sending Jesus. Now, everyone who believes in Jesus can live on God’s holy mountain forever.**

Today our promise has to do with this mountain. Distribute the printable figures. **It used to be that there was a big temple-church on a mountain and God’s Spirit was there. God’s people went there to worship him. People didn’t come from very far away because those people didn’t know about God. But God promises that a time is coming when people from all over the world will worship God. God will make a new heaven and a new earth, and God’s people will live with him on his holy mountain.**

In this future time, God promises people will live just as he wants. Right now we have sadness, sin, and fighting on the earth, but one day people will gather in love and peace. That is what God wants, and so one day that will happen.

Let’s have our little figures take a journey to God’s holy mountain. Let’s walk across the field. Have your figure walk. **Let’s jump over the fallen log.** Have your figure jump. **Let’s swim across the river.** Have your figure swim.

Let’s climb the mountain. Mime your figure climbing the mountain of dough. **Let’s worship God on his holy mountain.** Stick the toothpick end of your figure in the dough. All the children should do the same. **We are all with God on his holy mountain. People from all over the world will love and obey God. They**



will live in peace with God and one another. This is just what God wants. I can't wait for this day!

But how do we know it will happen? Because God promises us in the Bible. Hold up the Bible. **When God makes a promise, he always, always keeps it. During this Advent, we can wait with excitement and hope for the day we know is coming—a day when people from all over the world will live at peace with God and one another. We don't know exactly *when* it will be, but we know it will happen. Now, we wait. We get ready. One day, on God's holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God; this time is coming!**

4 STORY DISCUSSION

- ▶ **Have you ever waited for someone to visit you?** (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ **Long ago, who were God's people waiting for? Here's a hint: he came to earth on Christmas Day.** (Jesus)
- ▶ Point to the mountain. **What does God promise about this mountain?** (People will love God, there will be no more fighting, etc.)
- ▶ **People sometimes break their promises. Sometimes they can't help it. Has this ever happened to you?** (Answers will vary.)
- ▶ **Does God ever break his promises?** (No!)

Close in prayer: **Dear Lord, thank you that you keep your promises. We are so happy that people all over the world will know you and love you, and that there will be peace. Help us wait with excitement and get ready for that time! Amen.**

5 MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Climb and Sing

"Let us go up to the LORD's mountain." Isaiah 2:3a

Gather the children around the table. Distribute the figures. Say: **Let's make our figures "ice skate" to the music.** Play the music and have the figures "skate" across the table. After two or three verses, stop the music. **Does anybody know this tune? It is a Christmas song called "Joy to the World" and celebrates that God kept his promise to his people by sending Jesus on Christmas Day long ago. It reminds us that God always, always keep his promises.**

To Prepare:

Queue the song for class.



Today we learned about a promise God has made to us. One day, on God’s holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God, this time is coming! Our memory verse has to do with just that: “Let us go up to the LORD’s mountain” (Isaiah 2:3a).

Repeat after me.

“Let us go up . . .	Children repeat.
to the LORD’s mountain.”	Children repeat.
Isaiah 2:3a	Children repeat.

We can even sing the verse to the first part of our Christmas song.
Demonstrate for the children.

“Let us go up / to the LORD’s mountain.”

“Joy to the world / the Lord is come.”

Sing it several times with the children. Once they are confident, turn the music back on or sing the song yourself. You can hum the other lines of the song. You can make the figures climb the mountain, dance, skate, skip, or twirl to the song.

6 snack

To Prepare:

Gather the supplies and queue the video for class.

Mountain Snack

Say: **Today we learned about a promise God made to us. One day, on God’s holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming! Let’s make a snack that reminds us of a mountain.** Distribute a plate, spoon, upside down fruit cup, and several teddy grahams to each child. The fruit is the mountain, and the teddy grahams are the people coming to worship God.

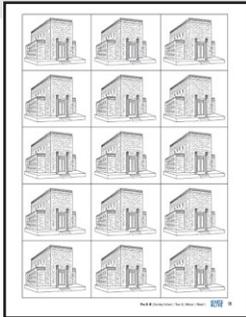
Play the video.



7 Craft

To Prepare:

Copy and cut out the printables. Gather the remaining supplies.



Holy Mountain Ornament

Say: **Remember, we are in the season of Advent. Advent means coming. God's promises are all sure to come true. Look how he kept his promise by sending Jesus our Savior on Christmas Day long ago! He will keep his promise that all nations will one day worship together and live as God desires.**

As we look ahead to that day, let's make an ornament to hang on our Christmas tree. It looks like a mountain, so that it will remind us of God's promise. The children will make an ornament every week this Advent. Each ornament will remind them of a promise of God.

To make this ornament:

1. Distribute three craft sticks to each child.
2. Glue the ends together to form a triangle (mountain). Allow them to set for one minute.
3. Tie a piece of yarn, ribbon, or twine around the top of the triangle (mountain).
4. Distribute the printables and coloring supplies. Have the children color the temple. Explain that it is God's temple-church. It reminds us that one day God will live with his people once again.
5. Glue the temple to the top of the triangle (mountain).
6. Optional: Decorate it with markers, stickers, pompoms, etc.
7. Write each child's name on the back of the ornament, or provide assistance as needed.





8 CLOSING

To Prepare:

Make enough copies of the Take-home page for each child.



Four, Three, Two, One—Jesus!

Say: **Advent is four weeks long.** Hold up four fingers. **We can count down on our fingers until we get to Christmas, which is Jesus’s birthday. Count with me.** Point to your fingers as you count down: **Four, Three, Two, One . . .** then clap your hands and say: **Jesus!**

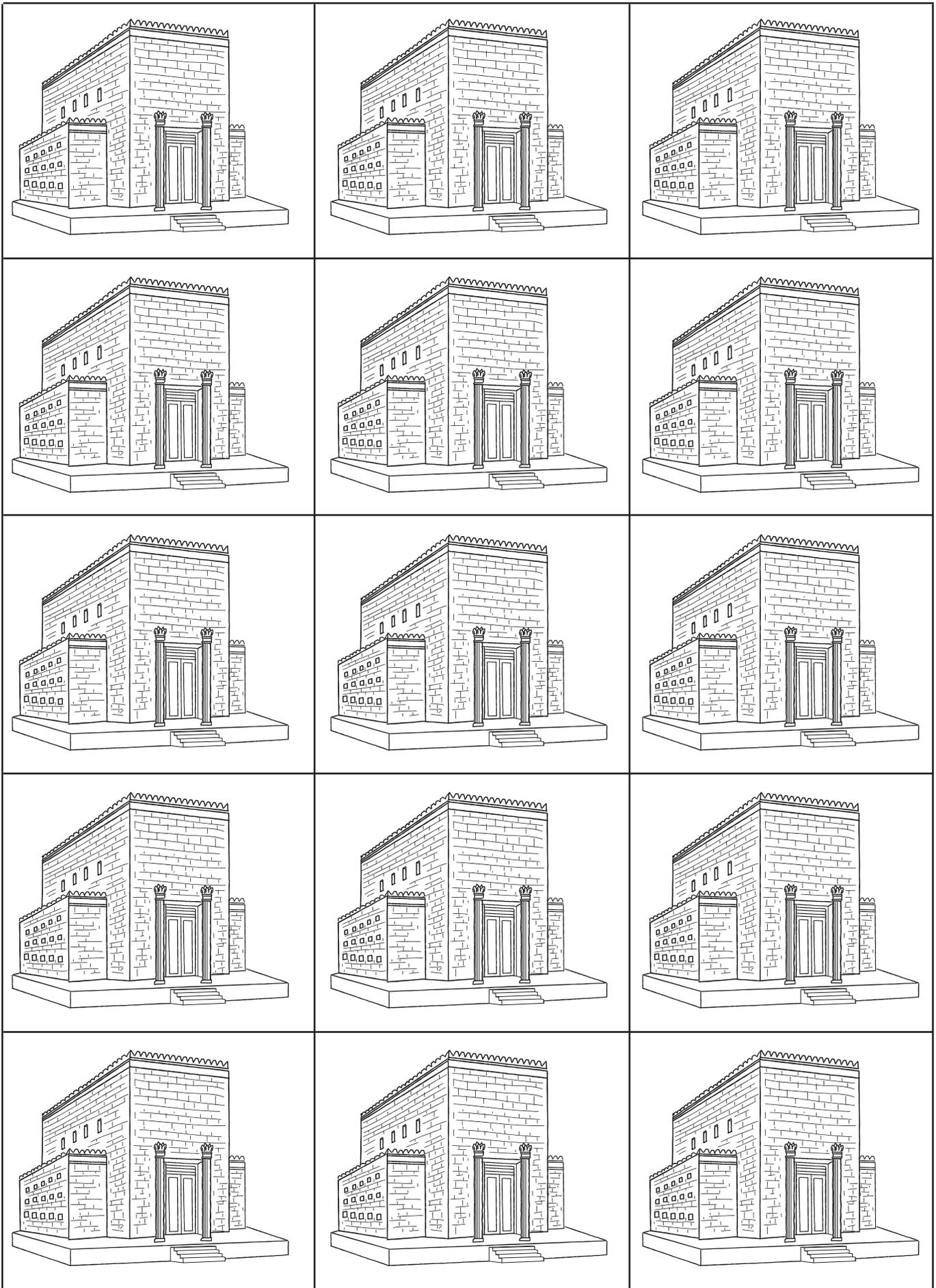
We are counting down till Christmas because Christmas is a celebration that God kept his promise. He gave us the best gift of all: Jesus! If God kept his promise by sending his Son, we can believe that he will keep his other promises to us.

God promises us that one day, on God’s holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming!

Let’s do the Advent countdown three times. Count your fingers and clap your hands just as you did before. Repeat three times: **Four, Three, Two, One—Jesus! Four, Three, Two, One—Jesus! Four, Three, Two, One—Jesus!**

Children line up to meet their parents. As the children leave, hand out their Take-home pages and remind them to bring home their crafts.





WEEK 1

LIVE IT ALL WEEK

Pre-K-K Take Home Paper for Families



What Your Child Learned Today

The word *Advent* means coming. During the season of Advent (the four weeks before Christmas), we *remember* that Jesus came to earth on Christmas Day long ago. We look *forward* to when he comes back again, and we are *thankful* that he is with us even now. Jesus's first coming was a promise God fulfilled on Christmas Day. His second coming is a promise yet to be fulfilled. Today your child learned of another promise spoken through the prophet Isaiah: that believers from all over the world will someday unite in worship of God. We will live as God desires—at peace with God and with one another.

Try This

Your child learned an Advent countdown to do each week. Hold up four fingers and count them with your other hand as you say, "Four, Three, Two, One . . ." Then clap your hands and say, "Jesus!" You can end your mealtime prayer this way to build anticipation for Christmas. If your child is old enough to understand a calendar, then count down the days until Christmas on the calendar. You can place a sticker or a star on each day that passes.

Table Talk

- ▶ **Advent means coming. Have you ever looked forward to the coming of a special visitor? Share your memories together.**
- ▶ **People often make promises. Do people always keep their promises? Why or why not?**
- ▶ **Does God always keep his promises? Why? See 1 Chronicles 29:11–12. (God is over all.)**
- ▶ **We know that God keeps his promises because we can see how he kept his promise to send a Savior. Who is that Savior? (Jesus)**
- ▶ **God promises that he will bring people from all over the world into his family. They will worship him and live just as he desires. Do we see this already happening? (Yes, there are Christians all over the world.)**

Prophecy and Expectation: The Mountain of the Lord

- Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5
- Big Idea: One day, on God's holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming!
- Memory Verse: "Let us go up to the LORD's mountain."
Isaiah 2:3a

SOMETHING ELSE TO DO

This Advent, learn some traditional carols whose words are rich with meaning. You can play the carol during dessert, at bedtime, or during family devotions. This week's carol is the traditional Christmas hymn, "Joy to the World." It celebrates that God kept his promise to send a Savior—that Savior is Jesus! Your child learned this week's memory verse—"Let us go up / to the LORD's mountain" (Isaiah 2:3a) to the tune of the first line of "Joy to the World."

BIBLE STUDY MEDIA

LOWER ELEMENTARY

HEARTS

A GOSPEL LECTIONARY CURRICULUM

ALIVE

YEAR A

WINTER

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WELCOME TO HEARTS ALIVE

In the line of Christian formation resources for children, the *Hearts Alive* curriculum is something brand-new! We have listened to the desire of churches to have a fully integrated weekly worship experience in which children and adults are engaged in exploring the same scriptural texts. Each lesson in both the Sunday school and Children's church curricula is built on one or more readings taken from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a three-year cycle of Bible readings used by churches across denominations and around the world to guide weekly worship. By aligning the lessons of *Hearts Alive* to these common readings, families are able to have cross-generational discussions related to the worship service message, Sunday school, and Children's church teachings.

While *Hearts Alive* is a natural fit for churches in the liturgical tradition that incorporate regular use of the RCL, its appeal is much broader. *Hearts Alive* is evangelical in its interpretation of Scripture and contemporary in its teaching style and life application. By using a sequential approach to Scripture teaching, *Hearts Alive* seeks to help churches train up young disciples in the whole Word of God, emphasizing a high view of scriptural authority and a gospel focus. The weekly age-specific lessons support and even elevate liturgical traditions as well as important observances in the church calendar while using clear and contemporary teaching techniques to present the Word of God in ways that will produce lifelong followers of Christ. *Hearts Alive* is flexible enough to fit any congregation, no matter how large or small, of any Christian denomination.

HEARTS ALIVE IS:

- ▶ Gospel-centered, emphasizing the story of salvation through Jesus Christ in every lesson.
- ▶ Scriptural, teaching the full scope of the Bible over a 3-year span following the RCL.
- ▶ User-friendly, making it easy for teachers and Christian educators to implement.
- ▶ Fun and engaging for children, offering age-appropriate storytelling, crafts, and activities.
- ▶ Family-oriented, providing a Take-Home page so parents and children can apply the lesson with activities throughout the week.
- ▶ Varied, offering both small- and large-group moments so children stay interested and engaged.
- ▶ Cost-effective for both small and large churches, available for quarterly purchase with price adjustments for volume.
- ▶ Downloadable, in a format that is easy to share with a whole team of leaders and volunteers.



What Each Lesson Provides

Each weekly *Hearts Alive* lesson provides two hours of material for children ranging from Pre-K/Kindergarten through Grade 6. The curriculum is divided into two categories: Sunday school and Children's church. These two distinct curricula offer different themes for each week's lesson so that children participating in both programs have fresh, engaging material in each class.

Sunday School Curriculum:

The *Hearts Alive* Sunday school curriculum is designed to be used during the Sunday school or Bible study hour of a church's weekly worship time. It is divided into three separate age groups and perfect for use in classroom-sized group settings. The age divisions are: Pre-K/Kindergarten, Lower Elementary (grades 1–3), and Upper Elementary (grades 4–6).

Children's Church Curriculum:

The *Hearts Alive* Children's church curriculum offers a weekly church experience tailored just for young followers of Jesus. It is intended for a larger, age-inclusive setting for children from pre-K through grade 5 (ages 4 through 11) designed to help them learn the basics of an adult worship service, including Welcome, Worship, Scripture Reading, Lesson, Creed, Prayer, and Offering. The larger group setting encourages children of varying ages to worship together, mirroring the generational integration of the church. At the close of each lesson, an age-specific breakout time ensures that every child, from the youngest to the oldest, can take part in a follow-up game, craft, or activity that will help them apply the week's lesson to their own lives. Many churches hold Children's church during the first part of the adult worship service. After Children's church concludes, there is time to welcome the children into the adult service for the final portion, often the celebration of Communion/the Eucharist.

How To Use The *Hearts Alive* Curriculum

Hearts Alive follows the 3-year cycle of the RCL. Because liturgical dates vary from year to year, specific dates are not assigned to the lessons. Instead, lessons are numbered and an accompanying online chart identifies which lesson falls on which calendar date for that specific year. In the heading of each lesson, you will find the Lectionary Year, Season, and Week number, plus the associated liturgical day (if applicable) and lectionary reading. This information can help you design your entire congregation's weekly worship experience around shared themes all year, providing a fresh unity to your congregation's spiritual focus and growth.

The first page of each Sunday school and Children's church lesson includes Lesson Title, Key Scripture, Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Lesson Overview. The Big Idea summarizes in one or two sentences the main point you want the children to learn from that day's lesson. The Lesson Overview provides a more in-depth explanation of the key points of the lesson.



Next, there is a Lesson Outline chart to help you stay organized. It tells you what happens when. On this chart, you'll find each lesson component along with a time estimate for how long it will take, a list of the supplies you will need, and a list of the things you'll need to prepare before class for that activity.

A unique Bible Background study is provided for each lesson to help you prepare your heart and mind as a leader or volunteer before class. It aims to provide a thorough understanding of the biblical setting of the day's passage along with any helpful information to help you field questions the children may have about the lesson. (Detailed explanations of each lesson component follow below.)

Anything that needs to be printed and possibly copied for each lesson (the "printables") are included in the download of each lesson. They are designed to be effective using simple black and white printing on standard-sized paper.

Finally, each lesson has a Take-Home page designed to be copied and sent home with the child. The resource is directed either toward parents (Sunday school) or children (Children's church). Either way, parents are encouraged to use the resource to talk with their child about the week's lesson. The page also suggests ways to apply scriptural lessons all week through family discussions and activities.

The Sunday School Curriculum

The Sunday school curriculum is divided by age group into: Pre-K/Kindergarten, Lower Elementary (grades 1–3), and Upper Elementary (grades 4–6). The lessons are designed for use in small group settings of approximately 10–12 children. If you expect more than 18 children in a room, we recommend dividing into smaller groups so all children feel engaged in the activities. If your group is smaller than 9 or 10, the games and activities can be adapted for fewer children.

Each weekly Sunday school lesson contains the following sequential Lesson Elements:

- ▶ **Welcome Activity** – An attention grabber designed for the beginning of class as you wait for latecomers to arrive.
- ▶ **Lesson Introduction** – A group activity to start the children thinking about the Big Idea and its application.
- ▶ **Scripture Story** – An engaging way to tell the story of the Key Scripture passage. It may include visual aids, drama, costumes, simple experiments, or props.
- ▶ **Story Discussion** – Discussion questions varied according to age group. We provide suggested answers for some of the trickier questions to aid you in your discussion with the children.



► **Variable Elements** – The below elements are variable to keep each week’s approach fresh.

- **Memory Verse Activity**
- **Snack**
- **Craft** – Step-by-step directions and illustrations are provided at the end of each lesson.
- **Music** – You may choose to find your own recordings or sing the songs with instrument accompaniment or without musical background.
- **Game**
- **Other Lesson Application Activities**

► **Closing Activity** – A simple and quick activity that allows you to bring the lesson to a close. Hand out the “Live It All Week” Take-Home page during this part of the lesson, and make sure children take home any crafts or activity pages.

A Special Note to Leaders

Congratulations on your role in helping to shape young hearts and minds in the Christian faith. Sunday school is a time-honored tradition of inviting the youngest of Christ’s family to get to know their Savior, their church family, and their place in the Kingdom of God through weekly teaching and hands-on participation. We have specifically designed the *Hearts Alive* curriculum to be everything you need to confidently lead an engaging time of worship, learning, and fun in the service of Christian formation. Here are a few specifics about the curriculum to help you in your role:

- *Hearts Alive* uses the New International Reader’s Version (NIRV) of The Holy Scriptures, believing it is the easiest translation for children to read and understand while remaining faithful to the original text. If you choose, you may use a different version in your lessons.
- We have included a unique Bible Background section specifically to help you get familiar with the background of the week’s passage of Scripture. It provides the setting of the passage in the overall story of the Bible, the connection to the life and work of Jesus Christ, and how the passage speaks to the church today. We recommend taking some time to read, pray through, and digest this information to help you be prepared for questions and good discussion.
- Much of the Lesson Content is bolded and prefaced by words like “Say:” or “Continue:” These sections are designed for you, the leader, to speak aloud. However, we suggest that you use



the words as a guide rather than reading directly from the page. The most effective way to communicate with children is by making eye contact. Try reading the lesson several times to get a good idea of what you want to say and the main points of the Bible teaching. You may want to highlight the sections you want to be sure to mention specifically. Other parts you can put into your own words. Have the lesson handy to refer to on paper or electronic device as you go.

- Feel free to adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of your class. If a different approach to the lesson works better, go for it! For example, you may choose to swap out drama for a visual aid in the lesson or vice versa. Use what is written as a guide to present the beauty and power of God's Word to your group of children in the most effective way possible.

Jesus said to "*let the children come to me.*" What greater calling can there be than helping to lead precious young souls to the heart of God and the joy, peace, and power of living the Christian faith? We pray that you will find the *Hearts Alive* curriculum an exciting and effective way to bring the wonderful message of salvation to the children of your congregation and community even as your entire church body unites in the weekly exploration of God's Word as one.



PROPHECY and EXPECTATION: The Mountain of the LORD

Isaiah 2:1–5

Big Idea:

One day, on God's holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires.
Praise God—this time is coming!

Memory Verse:

"Let us go up to the LORD's mountain."
Isaiah 2:3a



Lesson Overview

This lesson introduces the meaning of *advent*: coming. This year, the Advent lessons focus on God's promises. We should wait with expectation for those promises because we have seen repeatedly that God always keeps his promises. This first week of Advent centers on God's promise to rule and reign from his holy mountain in the New Jerusalem. Though now we have war and strife, God promises a future of peace with Jesus as King.



Week 1 Lesson Plan	Activity and Supplies	To Prepare
1 Welcome Activity (5 minutes)	Build a Mountain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic building bricks (e.g., Legos) and construction base plate • Bowl or bin 	Set the building bricks in the bowl or bin.
2 Lesson Introduction (5 minutes)	Climbing Everest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain from the Welcome Activity 	
3 Scripture Story (15 minutes)	The Mountain of the Lord <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible • Mountain from the Welcome Activity • A variety of mini-figures that can attach to the mountain made of building bricks • Additional building bricks 	Create a small building out of the additional building bricks.
4 Discussion (5 minutes)		
5 Memory Verse Activity (5 minutes)	“One for All” Chant	
6 Snack (10 minutes)	Cracker and Cheese Mountain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small plates • Cheese cubes • Round crackers • Paper cups • Pitcher of water 	Gather the supplies.
7 Activity (10 minutes)	Maze Up the Mountain Printables: Maze Up the Mountain (one for each child) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pencils 	Copy the printables.
8 Closing (5 minutes)	How Do We Wait? Printables: Take-home page (one for each child)	Make enough copies of the Take-home page for each child.

Continuing his discourse from the previous chapter, Isaiah the prophet speaks to the Jews of his day. While the Jews were outwardly keeping traditions, they were not following God's law in their hearts. Isaiah reminded them of their position among the nations, the chosen people of God: The Lord and his holy mountain, Zion, are higher than all the other gods and their mountains (Isaiah 2:2). Mount Zion is not the highest mountain because of its physical height; rather, it is "the mountain of the Lord," the dwelling place of the God of Israel, the god higher than all other gods. As his people, the Jews ought to live as God taught them, as a guide to all nations. They ought to be aware that, in the end, God's ways will be the ways of all people.

Old Testament. Old Testament prophets were people from every walk of life. Unlike the Levitical priesthood, which was hereditary, prophets came from a variety of backgrounds. Most often the prophets spoke to the nation of Israel on God's behalf. They also spoke to Judah after the kingdom was divided. Isaiah is one of the "major prophets," a designation determined by the length of his writings. Prophets were considered God's voice for their generation; yet, we need to consider and carefully interpret their words as God's voice to all generations, since there are events still to come.

In the first chapters of Isaiah, the prophet exposes the wrongdoing and wandering hearts of God's people. They were content in their sin. Isaiah's prophecy is to his generation, but also for the future. God desires a relationship with his people and his plan is that all nations, not just Israel, will know him through Christ Jesus. In Israel's history, Mount Zion was the physical mountain where the temple stood and the place where God's presence was known to dwell. Isaiah is prophesying about the future when

God's people, the church, will be made up of all nations. There will be no more war; everyone will live together in peace because everyone will know and love the God of their salvation. Considering this, Isaiah tells the people to live now as God has taught them.

Jesus. During his ministry, Jesus referred to believers as a city set on a hill (Matthew 5:14) and a light to the Gentiles (Acts 13:47). These and other metaphors indicate that God's fame would spread throughout the nations. The coming of all nations to Zion (his church) occurs between the two advents of Jesus—his first as the babe in the manger and the suffering servant, and the second as Judge and King (Isaiah 2:4).

The Church and the World. When the word *Zion* is used prophetically in Scripture, it refers to the church and coming kingdom of God. While we wait for the Second Advent, we can experience the kingdom of God in our lives by the Holy Spirit's power. The presence of God lives no longer on the temple mount, but in us. God teaches us how to live, both by the Scriptures and by the Holy Spirit's prompting. As the apostle Paul says in Romans 14:17, "God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit."

We are the city on a hill; we are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is what Jesus said about us. We are to live as he taught us to live, to treat others as he demonstrated. There is a peace—an absence of turmoil and war where the Holy Spirit dwells. This makes God famous and draws others to want to know him. This has been God's plan from the beginning. As believers in Jesus, as the citizens of God's kingdom on earth, and as the Zion of God, the church is to live lives worthy of the gospel of Christ and be his witnesses to the uttermost parts of the earth.



1 Welcome Activity

To Prepare:

Set the building bricks in the bowl or bin.

Build a Mountain

Set the building bricks and base plate on the table. Allow several minutes for the children to make a mountain out of the bricks. Then leave it out for display.

2 Lesson Introduction

Climbing Everest

Say: **You built a very tall mountain, but it is tiny compared to the tallest mountain in the world. Do you know the name of that mountain?** Let the children respond. **The tallest mountain is Everest. It is in the Himalayan mountain range, on the continent of Asia.**

Mount Everest is over 29,000 feet tall and is extremely difficult to climb. Not only is the mountain peak over five miles high, but it is also very cold. The mountain is covered with ice and snow all year. High-speed, hurricane-force winds whip over the mountain; blinding snowstorms happen without warning; and avalanches rain down tons of snow and ice. Only the best mountain climbers in the world try to climb Mount Everest because of its many dangers.

If you are one of the few to make it to the top of Everest, what can you see? You can see the tops of nearby mountains and, below, you see clouds! You have climbed through the clouds to get to the top. You see ice, snow, and bare rock. There is not a single tree or animal; it is too cold for anything to survive. There are no buildings at the top of the mountain, no houses (for no one lives there). There is no restroom and no visitor's center. The tallest mountain peak in the world is not a pleasant place to be.

In our Bible story today, we will read about another mountain—the highest mountain of all! God has not yet made this mountain, but he promises that he will. What will it be like? Will it be like Everest—cold, empty, and dangerous? Who will go there? And what will be at the top? Let's listen to the story and find out. Keep the mountain on the table for the Scripture Story.



3 scripture story

To Prepare:

Create a small building out of the additional building bricks.

The Mountain of the Lord

Set the mini-figures and small building to the side. Open the Bible on your lap. Say: **Christmas is coming in four weeks. Now we are in the season of Advent. Advent comes right before Christmas. The word advent means coming.**

We often want to know what is coming up, don't we? We want to know what we will have for dinner, how many days until Christmas or our birthdays, or when we can visit a friend or have a friend come play at our house. We want to know what's coming and when!

That is true for every person. God understands us and often tells us what is coming. Listen to this story. Long ago, before Jesus came to earth, God spoke to his people through a prophet named Isaiah. Do you know what a prophet does? Let the children respond. (A prophet listens to God and tells his words to the people.)

Isaiah the prophet spoke the words of God to the people. God's words were a promise not just for the people of his time, but for all God's people in the future—for you and me too.

Look around at the world and what do you find? Hold up the mini-figures. **Do you find that every single person loves God? (No.) Does everybody worship him? (No.) Does everybody live as God wants and make good choices? (No.) No, they do not. But God promises that one day this will change.**

During the time of Isaiah, the only people we know who worshiped God were his special people, the Jews. They all lived in the same area. The rest of the world—Africa, West Asia, Europe, and the Americas—didn't know about God. Set the mini-figures around the table. But today, there are Christians all over the world. People travel to new places to tell others about Jesus. The kingdom of God is spreading.

God promised that people of all nations would one day worship him, and they would gather at his holy mountain. Stick the mini-figures to the mountain. His holy mountain will be the highest mountain in the land. Where is that mountain? Is it Mount Everest? No, it's not. One day, God promises he will make a new heaven and a new earth. Our earth is broken in places. There are earthquakes, hurricanes, droughts, sickness, sadness, and death. There is sin and the consequences of sin. But God will make a new way.



Look what he has already done! He has sent Jesus, and Jesus has paid the price for our sins. We are no longer slaves to sin. We are free to love and serve God! We are no longer doomed to death. We have life forever with Jesus!

If God has already done all this, we can believe that he will keep his promise to gather people from all nations to his holy mountain in the new heaven and earth. Hold up the little building. He promises that at the top of that mountain, you will not find a cold, empty wasteland, but a temple-church where God will live. God promises that he will live with his people once again. Remember, Jesus came to earth on Christmas Day and lived with his people. It will be like that again, only better, because we will live with Jesus forever and ever.

This Advent, we will learn about God’s promises. We can count on them and believe in them because God always keeps his promises. One day, on God’s holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming!

Now, let’s see if you can help me answer some questions about today’s story.

4 STORY DISCUSSION

- ▶ **Have you ever been on a mountain?** (Let the children share.)
- ▶ **Can we go to God’s holy mountain now? Is it here on earth?** (No.)
- ▶ **Where will it be?** (It will be on the new earth.)
- ▶ **What will be at the top of that mountain?** (God in his temple)
- ▶ **Who will gather there?** (People who love God—people from all the nations of the world)
- ▶ **Will there be sin and sadness there?** (No.)
- ▶ **How do we know God will keep this promise?** (Answers will vary.) Possible answers might include: He always keeps promises, the Bible tells us so, and we can see how he kept his promises in Jesus.

Close in prayer: **Dear Lord, thank you that you keep your promises. We are so happy that people all over the world will know and love you, and that there will be peace in the new earth. Help us wait with excitement and get ready for that time! Amen.**



5 Memory Verse Activity

“One for All” Chant

“Let us go up to the LORD’s mountain.” Isaiah 2:3a

Say: **We learned about a promise God has made to us. One day, on God’s holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming! Our memory verse has to do with that. “Let us go up to the LORD’s mountain” (Isaiah 2:3). Repeat after me.**

“Let us go up . . .	Children repeat.
to the LORD’s mountain.”	Children repeat.
Isaiah 2:3a	Children repeat.

Recite the verse several times. Then gather the children in a tight circle. Show them how to pile their hands in the middle of the circle, one on top of the other, to make a stack of hands. If it turns into chaos, have them add hands in order, moving clockwise around the circle. Each person adds one hand and then waits until their turn again to add the other hand.

Once the children understand the process, practice saying one word of the verse each time a hand is added. When you finish the verse, everyone lifts their hands out of the circle (like a team cheer). Repeat this activity several times.

6 snack

To Prepare:
Gather the supplies.

Cracker and Cheese Mountain

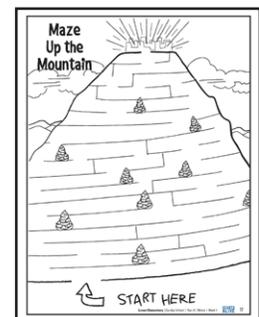
Say: **We learned about a promise God has made to us. One day, on God’s holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming! Let’s make a snack that reminds us of a mountain.** Distribute the snack. Have the children build a tower or mountain with their snack. Then, enjoy!

7 Activity

To Prepare:
Copy the printables.

Maze Up the Mountain

Say: **Distribute the printables and pencils. Remember, we are in the season of Advent. Advent means coming. God’s promises are all sure to come true. Look how he kept his promise by sending Jesus**





our Savior on Christmas Day long ago! He will keep his promise that all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming! Let’s complete a maze that gets to the top of God’s holy mountain. When you finish, turn over the paper and design your own maze.

8 CLOSING

How Do We Wait?

Say: **Advent is four weeks long. It is a time of waiting. We wait to celebrate Christmas, but we also wait for other things. We wait for God’s promises to be fulfilled. Today, we learned about a promise of God. What is it?** (One day, people from all nations will gather on his holy mountain. They will worship him and live as he desires.)

We wait for that wonderful future to happen. But what do we do while we wait? How do we wait?

Have you ever waited for a school bus, a train, or an airplane? Or waited in line at the store? Usually, you just stand around and do nothing. You might tap your foot impatiently. You might feel bored.

Have you ever had a family member or friend visit your house? While you wait for them to arrive, you have to get ready! You have to make beds, tidy the house, and make sure you have enough food to feed them while they are there. You are busy while you wait!

How should we wait for God’s promises? Should we sit around and check our watches, tap our feet, and do nothing? Or should we get ready by loving him *now*, worshiping him *now*, and living as he desires *now*? (We should get ready!)

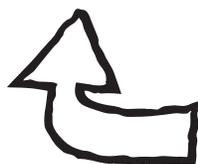
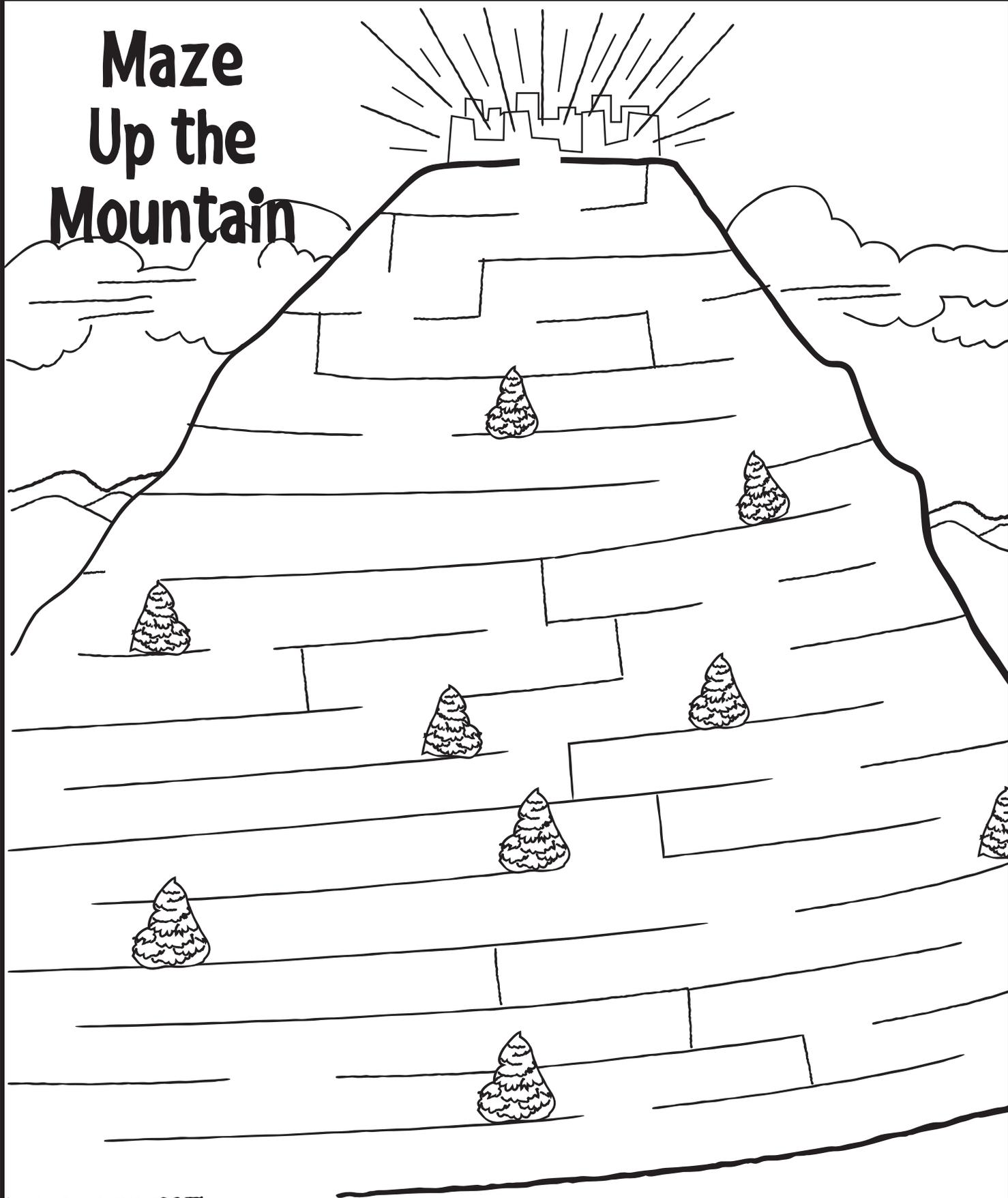
Children line up to meet their parents. As the children leave, hand out their Take-home pages and remind them to bring home their mazes.

To prepare:

Make enough copies of the Take-home page for each child.



Maze Up the Mountain



START HERE

WEEK 1

LIVE IT ALL WEEK

Lower Elementary Take Home Paper for Families



What Your Child Learned Today

The word *advent* means coming. During the season of Advent (the four weeks before Christmas), we *remember* that Jesus came to earth on Christmas Day long ago. We look *forward* to when he comes back again, and we are *thankful* that he is with us even now. Jesus's first coming was a promise God fulfilled on Christmas Day. His second coming is a promise yet to be fulfilled. Today your child learned of another promise spoken through the prophet Isaiah: believers from all over the world will someday unite in worship of God. We will live as God desires—at peace with God and with one another.

Table Talk

- ▶ **Advent means coming. Have you ever looked forward to the coming of a special visitor? Share your memories together.**
- ▶ **People often make promises. Do people always keep their promises? Why or why not?**
- ▶ **Does God always keep his promises? Why? See 1 Chronicles 29:11–12. (God is powerful and rules over all things.)**
- ▶ **We know that God keeps his promises because he kept his promise in sending a Savior. Who is that Savior? (Jesus)**
- ▶ **God promises that he will bring people from all over the world into his family. They will worship him and live just as he desires. Do we see this already happening? (Yes, there are Christians all over the world.)**

Try This

Your child learned that Advent is a time of waiting, but it is not like waiting for a bus. As you wait, you get ready by loving and serving God now. Ask your child to help you prepare a special meal. Do a few things to make the meal extra special: light a candle, make a dessert (kids love to make instant pudding!), or set name cards at each person's place. Explain to your child that, as you wait for dinner, you are getting ready for it. Advent is a time of waiting, but it is also a time of getting ready. How can you get ready for Christmas this year? How can you put Jesus at the center of Christmas?

Prophecy and Expectation: The Mountain of the Lord

- Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5
- Big Idea: One day, on God's holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming!
- Memory Verse: "Let us go up to the LORD's mountain." Isaiah 2:3a

SOMETHING ELSE TO DO

This Advent, learn some traditional carols that have words rich with meaning. You can play the carol during dessert, at bedtime, or during family devotions. This week's carol is the traditional Christmas hymn, "Joy to the World." It celebrates that God kept his promise to send a Savior—Jesus!

BIBLE STUDY MEDIA

UPPER ELEMENTARY

HEARTS

A GOSPEL LECTIONARY CURRICULUM

ALIVE

YEAR A

WINTER

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UPPER ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL
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WELCOME TO HEARTS ALIVE

In the line of Christian formation resources for children, the *Hearts Alive* curriculum is something brand-new! We have listened to the desire of churches to have a fully integrated weekly worship experience in which children and adults are engaged in exploring the same scriptural texts. Each lesson in both the Sunday school and Children's church curricula is built on one or more readings taken from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a three-year cycle of Bible readings used by churches across denominations and around the world to guide weekly worship. By aligning the lessons of *Hearts Alive* to these common readings, families are able to have cross-generational discussions related to the worship service message, Sunday school, and Children's church teachings.

While *Hearts Alive* is a natural fit for churches in the liturgical tradition that incorporate regular use of the RCL, its appeal is much broader. *Hearts Alive* is evangelical in its interpretation of Scripture and contemporary in its teaching style and life application. By using a sequential approach to Scripture teaching, *Hearts Alive* seeks to help churches train up young disciples in the whole Word of God, emphasizing a high view of scriptural authority and a gospel focus. The weekly age-specific lessons support and even elevate liturgical traditions as well as important observances in the church calendar while using clear and contemporary teaching techniques to present the Word of God in ways that will produce lifelong followers of Christ. *Hearts Alive* is flexible enough to fit any congregation, no matter how large or small, of any Christian denomination.

HEARTS ALIVE IS:

- ▶ Gospel-centered, emphasizing the story of salvation through Jesus Christ in every lesson.
- ▶ Scriptural, teaching the full scope of the Bible over a 3-year span following the RCL.
- ▶ User-friendly, making it easy for teachers and Christian educators to implement.
- ▶ Fun and engaging for children, offering age-appropriate storytelling, crafts, and activities.
- ▶ Family-oriented, providing a Take-Home page so parents and children can apply the lesson with activities throughout the week.
- ▶ Varied, offering both small- and large-group moments so children stay interested and engaged.
- ▶ Cost-effective for both small and large churches, available for quarterly purchase with price adjustments for volume.
- ▶ Downloadable, in a format that is easy to share with a whole team of leaders and volunteers.



What Each Lesson Provides

Each weekly *Hearts Alive* lesson provides two hours of material for children ranging from Pre-K/Kindergarten through Grade 6. The curriculum is divided into two categories: Sunday school and Children's church. These two distinct curricula offer different themes for each week's lesson so that children participating in both programs have fresh, engaging material in each class.

Sunday School Curriculum:

The *Hearts Alive* Sunday school curriculum is designed to be used during the Sunday school or Bible study hour of a church's weekly worship time. It is divided into three separate age groups and perfect for use in classroom-sized group settings. The age divisions are: Pre-K/Kindergarten, Lower Elementary (grades 1–3), and Upper Elementary (grades 4–6).

Children's Church Curriculum:

The *Hearts Alive* Children's church curriculum offers a weekly church experience tailored just for young followers of Jesus. It is intended for a larger, age-inclusive setting for children from pre-K through grade 5 (ages 4 through 11) designed to help them learn the basics of an adult worship service, including Welcome, Worship, Scripture Reading, Lesson, Creed, Prayer, and Offering. The larger group setting encourages children of varying ages to worship together, mirroring the generational integration of the church. At the close of each lesson, an age-specific breakout time ensures that every child, from the youngest to the oldest, can take part in a follow-up game, craft, or activity that will help them apply the week's lesson to their own lives. Many churches hold Children's church during the first part of the adult worship service. After Children's church concludes, there is time to welcome the children into the adult service for the final portion, often the celebration of Communion/the Eucharist.

How To Use The *Hearts Alive* Curriculum

Hearts Alive follows the 3-year cycle of the RCL. Because liturgical dates vary from year to year, specific dates are not assigned to the lessons. Instead, lessons are numbered and an accompanying online chart identifies which lesson falls on which calendar date for that specific year. In the heading of each lesson, you will find the Lectionary Year, Season, and Week number, plus the associated liturgical day (if applicable) and lectionary reading. This information can help you design your entire congregation's weekly worship experience around shared themes all year, providing a fresh unity to your congregation's spiritual focus and growth.

The first page of each Sunday school and Children's church lesson includes Lesson Title, Key Scripture, Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Lesson Overview. The Big Idea summarizes in one or two sentences the main point you want the children to learn from that day's lesson. The Lesson Overview provides a more in-depth explanation of the key points of the lesson.



Next, there is a Lesson Outline chart to help you stay organized. It tells you what happens when. On this chart, you'll find each lesson component along with a time estimate for how long it will take, a list of the supplies you will need, and a list of the things you'll need to prepare before class for that activity.

A unique Bible Background study is provided for each lesson to help you prepare your heart and mind as a leader or volunteer before class. It aims to provide a thorough understanding of the biblical setting of the day's passage along with any helpful information to help you field questions the children may have about the lesson. (Detailed explanations of each lesson component follow below.)

Anything that needs to be printed and possibly copied for each lesson (the "printables") are included in the download of each lesson. They are designed to be effective using simple black and white printing on standard-sized paper.

Finally, each lesson has a Take-Home page designed to be copied and sent home with the child. The resource is directed either toward parents (Sunday school) or children (Children's church). Either way, parents are encouraged to use the resource to talk with their child about the week's lesson. The page also suggests ways to apply scriptural lessons all week through family discussions and activities.

The Sunday School Curriculum

The Sunday school curriculum is divided by age group into: Pre-K/Kindergarten, Lower Elementary (grades 1–3), and Upper Elementary (grades 4–6). The lessons are designed for use in small group settings of approximately 10–12 children. If you expect more than 18 children in a room, we recommend dividing into smaller groups so all children feel engaged in the activities. If your group is smaller than 9 or 10, the games and activities can be adapted for fewer children.

Each weekly Sunday school lesson contains the following sequential Lesson Elements:

- ▶ **Welcome Activity** – An attention grabber designed for the beginning of class as you wait for latecomers to arrive.
- ▶ **Lesson Introduction** – A group activity to start the children thinking about the Big Idea and its application.
- ▶ **Scripture Story** – An engaging way to tell the story of the Key Scripture passage. It may include visual aids, drama, costumes, simple experiments, or props.
- ▶ **Story Discussion** – Discussion questions varied according to age group. We provide suggested answers for some of the trickier questions to aid you in your discussion with the children.



► **Variable Elements** – The below elements are variable to keep each week’s approach fresh.

- **Memory Verse Activity**
- **Snack**
- **Craft** – Step-by-step directions and illustrations are provided at the end of each lesson.
- **Music** – You may choose to find your own recordings or sing the songs with instrument accompaniment or without musical background.
- **Game**
- **Other Lesson Application Activities**

► **Closing Activity** – A simple and quick activity that allows you to bring the lesson to a close. Hand out the “Live It All Week” Take-Home page during this part of the lesson, and make sure children take home any crafts or activity pages.

A Special Note to Leaders

Congratulations on your role in helping to shape young hearts and minds in the Christian faith. Sunday school is a time-honored tradition of inviting the youngest of Christ’s family to get to know their Savior, their church family, and their place in the Kingdom of God through weekly teaching and hands-on participation. We have specifically designed the *Hearts Alive* curriculum to be everything you need to confidently lead an engaging time of worship, learning, and fun in the service of Christian formation. Here are a few specifics about the curriculum to help you in your role:

- *Hearts Alive* uses the New International Reader’s Version (NIRV) of The Holy Scriptures, believing it is the easiest translation for children to read and understand while remaining faithful to the original text. If you choose, you may use a different version in your lessons.
- We have included a unique Bible Background section specifically to help you get familiar with the background of the week’s passage of Scripture. It provides the setting of the passage in the overall story of the Bible, the connection to the life and work of Jesus Christ, and how the passage speaks to the church today. We recommend taking some time to read, pray through, and digest this information to help you be prepared for questions and good discussion.
- Much of the Lesson Content is bolded and prefaced by words like “Say:” or “Continue:” These sections are designed for you, the leader, to speak aloud. However, we suggest that you use



the words as a guide rather than reading directly from the page. The most effective way to communicate with children is by making eye contact. Try reading the lesson several times to get a good idea of what you want to say and the main points of the Bible teaching. You may want to highlight the sections you want to be sure to mention specifically. Other parts you can put into your own words. Have the lesson handy to refer to on paper or electronic device as you go.

- Feel free to adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of your class. If a different approach to the lesson works better, go for it! For example, you may choose to swap out drama for a visual aid in the lesson or vice versa. Use what is written as a guide to present the beauty and power of God's Word to your group of children in the most effective way possible.

Jesus said to "*let the children come to me.*" What greater calling can there be than helping to lead precious young souls to the heart of God and the joy, peace, and power of living the Christian faith? We pray that you will find the *Hearts Alive* curriculum an exciting and effective way to bring the wonderful message of salvation to the children of your congregation and community even as your entire church body unites in the weekly exploration of God's Word as one.



PROPHECY and EXPECTATION: The MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD

Isaiah 2:1–5

Big Idea:

One day, on God's holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming!

Memory Verse:

"Let us go up to the LORD's mountain."
Isaiah 2:3a



Lesson Overview

This lesson introduces the meaning of Advent: "Coming." This year, the Advent lessons focus on God's promises. We should wait with expectation for those promises because we have seen repeatedly that God always keeps his promises. This first week of Advent centers on God's promise to rule and reign from his holy mountain in the New Jerusalem. Though now we have war and strife, God promises a future of peace with Jesus as King.



Week 1 Lesson Plan	Activity and Supplies	To Prepare
1 Welcome Activity (5 minutes)	Simon Says Mountain Edition	
2 Lesson Introduction (5 minutes)	Making a Trek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backpack • Sneakers or hiking boots • Granola bar • Water bottle • Map • Bible 	Fill the backpack with the supplies.
3 Scripture Story (10 minutes)	The Mountain of the Lord <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles for the class 	
4 Discussion (5 minutes)		
5 Memory Verse Activity (10 minutes)	Verse Code Printables: Verse Code (one for each child) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pencils • Bibles 	Copy the printables.
6 Snack (10 minutes)	Trail Snack <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granola bars (one for each child) • Water bottles (one for each child) 	Gather the supplies.
7 Game (10 minutes)	Mountain Quiz	
8 Closing (5 minutes)	Advent Prayer Printables: Take-home page (one for each child) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 votive candles • Lighter 	Make enough copies of the Take-home page for each child.



Bible Background for Leader

Continuing his discourse from the previous chapter, Isaiah the prophet speaks to the Jews of his day. While the Jews were outwardly keeping traditions, they were not following God's law in their hearts. Isaiah reminded them of their position among the nations, the chosen people of God: The Lord and his holy mountain, Zion, are higher than all the other gods and their mountains (Isaiah 2:2). Mount Zion is not the highest mountain because of its physical height; rather, it is "the mountain of the Lord," the dwelling place of the God of Israel, the god higher than all other gods. As his people, the Jews ought to live as God taught them, as a guide to all nations. They ought to be aware that, in the end, God's ways will be the ways of all people.

Old Testament. Old Testament prophets were people from every walk of life. Unlike the Levitical priesthood, which was hereditary, prophets came from a variety of backgrounds. Most often the prophets spoke to the nation of Israel on God's behalf. They also spoke to Judah after the kingdom was divided. Isaiah is one of the "major prophets," a designation determined by the length of his writings. Prophets were considered God's voice for their generation; yet, we need to consider and carefully interpret their words as God's voice to all generations, since there are events still to come.

In the first chapters of Isaiah, the prophet exposes the wrongdoing and wandering hearts of God's people. They were content in their sin. Isaiah's prophecy is to his generation, but also for the future. God desires a relationship with his people and his plan is that all nations, not just Israel, will know him through Christ Jesus. In Israel's history, Mount Zion was the physical mountain where the temple stood and the place where God's presence was known to dwell. Isaiah is prophesying about the future when

God's people, the church, will be made up of all nations. There will be no more war; everyone will live together in peace because everyone will know and love the God of their salvation. Considering this, Isaiah tells the people to live now as God has taught them.

Jesus. During his ministry, Jesus referred to believers as a city set on a hill (Matthew 5:14) and a light to the Gentiles (Acts 13:47). These and other metaphors indicate that God's fame would spread throughout the nations. The coming of all nations to Zion (his church) occurs between the two advents of Jesus—his first as the babe in the manger and the suffering servant, and the second as Judge and King (Isaiah 2:4).

The Church and the World. When the word *Zion* is used prophetically in Scripture, it refers to the church and coming kingdom of God. While we wait for the Second Advent, we can experience the kingdom of God in our lives by the Holy Spirit's power. The presence of God lives no longer on the temple mount, but in us. God teaches us how to live, both by the Scriptures and by the Holy Spirit's prompting. As the apostle Paul says in Romans 14:17, "God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit."

We are the city on a hill; we are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is what Jesus said about us. We are to live as he taught us to live, to treat others as he demonstrated. There is a peace—an absence of turmoil and war where the Holy Spirit dwells. This makes God famous and draws others to want to know him. This has been God's plan from the beginning. As believers in Jesus, as the citizens of God's kingdom on earth, and as the Zion of God, the church is to live lives worthy of the gospel of Christ and be his witnesses to the uttermost parts of the earth.



1 Welcome Activity

Simon Says Mountain Edition

Say: **We will begin our day on our feet! Do you all know how to play Simon Says? I will call out an action, but you only do it if I say “Simon says” before the action. This is the “mountain edition” of Simon Says because all the motions have to do with hiking or climbing.** Begin the game. Any person who performs an action without first hearing “Simon Says,” is eliminated.

Use the following actions, and feel free to add your own:

- Climb up a steep hill
- Take off your backpack
- Tie your shoes
- Unscrew your water bottle cap
- Plug your nose as you walk by a skunk
- Swat the fly
- Stamp the mud off your boots
- Pick up sticks for a fire
- Warm your hands by the fire
- Fill your mouth with marshmallows
- Put on a hat
- Spray insect repellent
- Put sunscreen on your face
- Jump over the root
- Pull your foot out of the mud
- Guzzle a water bottle
- Tie on a bandana

After several minutes, announce the winner and have the children return to their seats.

To Prepare:

Fill the backpack with the supplies.

2 Lesson Introduction

Making a Trek

Wear the backpack. Say: **Imagine you are going on a long hike—perhaps you are hiking a section of the Appalachian Trail. You have to travel a long way. What would you need to bring in your backpack?** Let the children brainstorm.



Retrieve the shoes from the backpack. **You will need to wear comfortable shoes. On a long journey comfortable shoes are an absolute necessity. If your feet get sore you cannot hike!**

Retrieve the water bottle. **You will need water. Walking can make you thirsty.**

Retrieve the granola bar. **You will need snacks. You don't want to go hungry on your journey!**

Retrieve the map. **You need a map. You need to make sure you don't lose your way. A map will help you stay on the right path.**

Now imagine your hike involves a mountain—a steep mountain, one of the highest in the world! What else might you need for a trek like that?

(Examples might include: Cold weather gear, rope, ice ax, flashlight, Swiss army knife, compass, etc.)

In our Bible passage today, we will learn about a mountain—the highest mountain of all. Will it be like Mount Everest in Asia—cold, barren, and dangerous to climb? We're not sure. But the Bible says people from all the nations will go there. This includes us! What should we take along for gear?

Retrieve the Bible. **Let's consult our trail guide to find out!**

3 Scripture Story

The Mountain of the Lord

Distribute the Bibles and have the children turn to Isaiah 2. Say: **Before we read, did you know this is the first day of a new season? I am not talking about fall or winter; I am talking about a season of the church year. Does anyone know the name for this season? (Advent) Does anyone know how long Advent is? (Four weeks) Advent leads up to what holiday? (Christmas) Advent is a season of waiting and preparing. What are we waiting for? Today's passage tells us about something to come.**

This passage comes from Isaiah. What do you know about Isaiah? Is Isaiah a man or a woman? (Man) He has a book of the Bible named after him. Why? (He wrote it—under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit) The book of Isaiah is in the Old Testament. Does that mean Isaiah lived before or after Jesus? (Before) Isaiah was a prophet, which means he listened to God and spoke his words to the people. Isaiah lived in the kingdom of Judah over seven hundred years before Jesus was born.

What does Isaiah share with us in this chapter? Recruit a volunteer to read



Isaiah 2:1: "Here is a vision that Isaiah, the son of Amoz, saw about Judah and Jerusalem."

What is a vision? (When God speaks to someone through a picture or image.)

A vision is a glimpse of something, often something to come. Recruit a volunteer to read verse 2: "In the last days the mountain where the Lord's temple is located will be famous. It will be the highest mountain of all. It will be raised above the hills. All the nations will go to it."

What does God show Isaiah? (A mountain with the Lord's temple) **What is a temple?** (Church/house of the Lord)

God's people were used to the idea of the Lord's temple sitting on a mountaintop. King Solomon had built a temple to God on Mount Zion. The Spirit of God dwelled there in the center of the temple, in a place called the Holy of Holies. Only the high priest could enter that special place, and even he could go in only once a year. The temple Solomon built in Mount Zion was completely destroyed about two hundred years after Isaiah spoke these words. It was mainly the Hebrews, God's people, who worshiped at the temple. The other nations worshiped false gods, far from the Lord's temple. Based on this evidence, do you think the temple God showed Isaiah was the temple of Solomon? (Probably not)

If it's not Solomon's temple, what is it? Let's look for more clues. Recruit a volunteer to read verse 3: "People from many nations will go there. They will say, 'Come. Let us go up to the Lord's mountain. Let's go to the temple of Jacob's God. He will teach us how we should live. Then we will live the way he wants us to.' The law of the Lord will be taught at Zion. His message will go out from Jerusalem."

Do people want to go to this mountain? (Yes.) **Which people—the Hebrews?** (Yes, but also people from all the nations) **What will God teach them there?** (How to live) **What do you think it means—that God will teach them how to live?** (He'll teach them right from wrong; they will love, honor, and obey God; they will live in peace, etc.) **Does God tell us how to live?** Hold up the Bible. (Yes.) **We know how we should live. God has told us. Do you remember what Jesus said when someone asked him which of God's commands was most important?** Recruit a volunteer to read Matthew 22:37-40: "Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind.'" This is the first and most important commandment. And the second is like it. "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." Everything that is written in the Law and the Prophets is based on these two commandments."



God has already told us how to live, but do we always obey? (No.) We know how God wants us to live, but we don't always live that way.

In his vision, Isaiah sees something new. Recruit a volunteer to read Isaiah 2:4: "He will judge between the nations. He'll settle problems among many of them. They will hammer their swords into plows. They'll hammer their spears into pruning tools. Nations will not go to war against one another. They won't even train to fight anymore."

What does God do? (He is the judge between the nations/settles problems.) **Is there war?** (No.) **What do people do with their weapons?** (Melt them down and turn them into farm equipment) **Why do they do this?** (They don't need them anymore—there is no more fighting.)

What did Isaiah see? Let the children respond. **Have we already seen this event take place?** Let the children respond. **Let's look at the evidence. It is a time and place where God will dwell with his people. There will be no more war, no more weapons. People of all nations will gather and live as God desires—at peace with him and with each other. Has this already happened?** (No.)

God gave Isaiah a vision of something to come. This is not the only glimpse God gives of this future time and place. We can also read about it in the book of Revelation. The mountain of the Lord is more than just a pretty picture; it is a promise. If God says something will happen, then it will happen. God *always* keeps his promises. He promised to send a Savior—and he did. God sent his Son to earth to save us from our sins and make a way for us to be with him forever.

Thanks to Jesus, who makes it possible for us to stand in the presence of a holy God, we can live forever with him. And we can trust God's promise: One day, on God's holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming!



4 Discussion

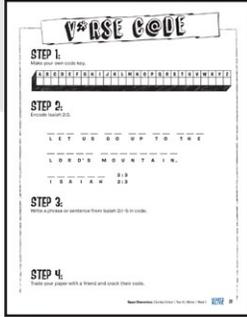
- ▶ **Does anyone know what the highest mountain in the world is?** (Mount Everest in Asia) **The top of Everest is frigid, icy, and only accessible a few weeks a year.**
- ▶ **Isaiah had a vision about a mountain. Do you remember when I said we can read more about this in the book of Revelation?** Recruit a volunteer to read Revelation 21:1-4: "I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth.' The first heaven and the first earth were completely gone. There was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem. It was coming down out of heaven from God. It was prepared like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, 'Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God. "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death." And there will be no more sadness. There will be no more crying or pain. Things are no longer the way they used to be.'" **Where will this mountain be?** (In the new heaven and new earth)
- ▶ **Advent is a time of waiting. What are we waiting for?** (Answers will vary. A possible answer might include today's promise: that God will live with his people once again.)
- ▶ **Advent is also a time of preparation. How can we prepare for this future event?** Recruit a volunteer to read Isaiah 2:5: "People of Jacob, come. Let us live the way the Lord has taught us to." (Live as God desires right now)
- ▶ **At the time of Isaiah, the only people who worshiped God at his temple were the Hebrews. They lived in a tiny part of the world that we now call the Middle East. How have things changed?** (People all over the world worship God—people on all the continents.) **God's kingdom has spread and will continue to spread!**
- ▶ **How do we know God will keep this promise?** (Answers will vary. Possible answers might include: God always keeps his promises, the Bible tells us so, and we can see how he kept his promises in Jesus.)

Close in prayer: **Dear Lord, thank you that you keep your promises. We can't wait for the day when we get to gather at your holy mountain! Help us wait with excitement and get ready for that time! Amen.**



5 Memory Verse Activity

To Prepare:
Copy the printables.



Verse Code

"Let us go up to the LORD's mountain." Isaiah 2:3a

Say: **We learned about a promise God has made to us. One day, on God's holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God; this time is coming! Today's memory verse has to do with just that: "Let us go up to the LORD's mountain" (Isaiah 2:3). We will learn it by writing it in a code. First, you need to make your own unique code.** Distribute the printables and supplies.

The alphabet is written at the top. The alphabet usually starts with A, but instead, pick any letter and write it inside the box under the A. Now write the rest of the alphabet in order. For example, if you start with L, you would write M in the box under B, N in the box under C, and so on and until you get to Z. After you write the letter Z, you need to start back at A and continue to write all the letters through K. This is now the key to your code key.

Practice your code by writing the memory verse: "Let us go up to the LORD's mountain" (Isaiah 2:3a). The first letter in "let" is L. What is the letter you have chosen to stand for L? Write that down. Have the children complete the code for their memory verse. Then have each person turn to Isaiah 2:1-5. They may transcribe any sentence or phrase in their code. When they finish, have them trade codes with another child. Using the key, they can crack one another's secret messages.

6 snack

To Prepare:
Gather the supplies.

Trail Snack

Say: **We learned about a promise God has made to us. One day, on God's holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming! Let's make a snack that reminds us of a mountain. Do you remember what we had in our backpack?** (Granola bars and water) Distribute the snack and enjoy.



7 Game

Mountain Quiz

Say: **Remember, we are in the season of Advent. Advent means coming. God's promises are all sure to come true. Look how he kept his promise in sending Jesus as our Savior on Christmas Day long ago! He will keep his promise that all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming! Let's play a trivia game to test our memory.**

1. What is a prophet? (Answer: Someone who listens to God and speaks his words to the people)
2. Who is the prophet from our passage? (Answer: Isaiah)
3. Geologists say a mountain must be at least how many feet high?
(Answer: [c] 1000 feet)
 - a) 500 feet
 - b) 800 feet
 - c) 1000 feet
4. When God shows a prophet a picture of something, it is called a what?
(Answer: Vision)
5. What is a temple? (Answer: A church or house of God)
6. Who built the first temple to God—the one on Mt. Zion? (Answer: Solomon)
7. What do you call the holy inner place in Solomon's temple? (Answer: The Most Holy Place or the Holy of Holies)
8. Where is a mountain summit? (Answer: At the top of a mountain)
9. Where is a mountain slope? (Answer: On the side of a mountain)
10. Who was the only person who could go into the Holy of Holies? (Answer: The high priest)
11. Can a mountain be underwater? (Answer: Yes)
12. Are there mountains on all seven continents? (Answer: Yes)
13. Who made a way for us to stand in the presence of a holy God? (Answer: Jesus)
14. Mountains with hot, molten rock inside are called what? (Answer: Volcanoes)
15. The faces of four American presidents are carved into which mountain?
(Answer: Mount Rushmore in South Dakota)
16. What will people do with their weapons on God's holy mountain? (Answer: Turn them into farm equipment)



17. What is the tallest mountain in North America? (Answer: [a] Denali, formerly known as Mt McKinley, which is in Alaska.)
 - a) Denali
 - b) Mt. Whitney
 - c) Mt. St Helens
 - d) Mt. Everest
18. Besides Isaiah, what other book of the Bible talks about God's people worshipping on his holy mountain? (Answer: Revelation)
19. What is the tallest mountain in the world? (Answer: Mt. Everest)
20. What church season are we in right now? (Answer: Advent)
21. How long is Advent? (Answer: Four weeks)
22. What is the connection between snowy mountains and rivers? (Answer: The snow melts to become the source of the rivers.)
23. What holiday does Advent lead up to? (Answer: Christmas)

8 CLOSING

Advent Prayer

Set up the four votive candles. Say: **This is the first week of Advent, so we light the first candle.** Light the first candle.

Let's close in prayer. I will read a prayer for the first Sunday of Advent. It is the first verse of the Advent hymn, "Come Thou Long-expected Jesus." It speaks about another promise of God—the promise that Jesus will return to earth. During Advent, we wait. We don't wait anxiously; we wait with hope. God always keeps his promises. He sent Jesus to earth long ago on Christmas Day, just as he promised. Jesus will come back again, just as he promised. One day, on God's holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. This will happen just as God has promised. Let's bow our heads.

**"Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee," Amen.**
(Charles Wesley)

Children line up to meet their parents. As the children leave, hand out their Take-home pages and remind them to bring home their worksheets.

To Prepare:

Make enough copies of the Take-home page for each child.



WEEK 1

LIVE IT ALL WEEK

Upper Elementary Take Home Paper for Families



What Your Child Learned Today

The word *advent* means coming. During the season of Advent (the four weeks before Christmas), we *remember* that Jesus came to earth on Christmas Day long ago. We look *forward* to when he comes back again, and we are *thankful* that he is with us even now. Jesus's first coming was a promise God fulfilled on Christmas Day. His second coming is a promise yet to be fulfilled. Today your child learned of another promise spoken through the prophet Isaiah: believers from all over the world will someday unite in worship of God. We will live as God desires—at peace with God and with one another.

Try This

According to God's promise in Isaiah 2, people from many nations will gather at the Lord's mountain. Do you know any Christians who live in other countries? Does your church support any missionaries? Find a recent update from a missionary to see what God is doing in their part of the world.

Table Talk

- ▶ **Advent means coming. Have you ever looked forward to the coming of a special visitor? Share your memories together.**
- ▶ **People often make promises. Do people always keep their promises? Why or why not?**
- ▶ **Does God always keep his promises? Why? See 1 Chronicles 29:11–12. (God is powerful and rules over all things.)**
- ▶ **We know that God keeps his promises because he kept his promise in sending a Savior. Who is that Savior? (Jesus)**
- ▶ **God promises that he will bring people from all over the world into his family. They will worship him and live just as he desires. Do we see this already happening? (Yes, there are Christians all over the world.)**

Prophecy and Expectation: The Mountain of the Lord

- Scripture: Isaiah 2:1-5
- Big Idea: One day, on God's holy mountain, all nations will worship together and live as God desires. Praise God—this time is coming!
- Memory Verse: "Let us go up to the LORD's mountain."
Isaiah 2:3a

SOMETHING ELSE TO DO

This Advent, learn some traditional carols that have words rich with meaning. Play the carols during dessert, at bedtime, or during family devotions. This week's carol is the traditional Advent hymn, "Come Thou Long-expected Jesus." Your child prayed the first verse as today's closing prayer. Learn the song as a family. Your child will pray a verse each week of Advent—you can do this at home as well.

BIBLE STUDY MEDIA

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

HEARTS

A GOSPEL LECTIONARY CURRICULUM

ALIVE

YEAR A

WINTER

New Growth Press, Greensboro, NC 27404
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WELCOME TO HEARTS ALIVE

In the line of Christian formation resources for children, the *Hearts Alive* curriculum is something brand-new! We have listened to the desire of churches to have a fully integrated weekly worship experience in which children and adults are engaged in exploring the same scriptural texts. Each lesson in both the Sunday school and Children's church curricula is built on one or more readings taken from the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), a three-year cycle of Bible readings used by churches across denominations and around the world to guide weekly worship. By aligning the lessons of *Hearts Alive* to these common readings, families are able to have cross-generational discussions related to the worship service message, Sunday school, and Children's church teachings.

While *Hearts Alive* is a natural fit for churches in the liturgical tradition that incorporate regular use of the RCL, its appeal is much broader. *Hearts Alive* is evangelical in its interpretation of Scripture and contemporary in its teaching style and life application. By using a sequential approach to Scripture teaching, *Hearts Alive* seeks to help churches train up young disciples in the whole Word of God, emphasizing a high view of scriptural authority and a gospel focus. The weekly age-specific lessons support and even elevate liturgical traditions as well as important observances in the church calendar while using clear and contemporary teaching techniques to present the Word of God in ways that will produce lifelong followers of Christ. *Hearts Alive* is flexible enough to fit any congregation, no matter how large or small, of any Christian denomination.

HEARTS ALIVE IS:

- ▶ Gospel-centered, emphasizing the story of salvation through Jesus Christ in every lesson.
- ▶ Scriptural, teaching the full scope of the Bible over a 3-year span following the RCL.
- ▶ User-friendly, making it easy for teachers and Christian educators to implement.
- ▶ Fun and engaging for children, offering age-appropriate storytelling, crafts, and activities.
- ▶ Family-oriented, providing a Take-Home page so parents and children can apply the lesson with activities throughout the week.
- ▶ Varied, offering both small- and large-group moments so children stay interested and engaged.
- ▶ Cost-effective for both small and large churches, available for quarterly purchase with price adjustments for volume.
- ▶ Downloadable, in a format that is easy to share with a whole team of leaders and volunteers.



What Each Lesson Provides

Each weekly *Hearts Alive* lesson provides two hours of material for children ranging from Pre-K/Kindergarten through Grade 6. The curriculum is divided into two categories: Sunday school and Children's church. These two distinct curricula offer different themes for each week's lesson so that children participating in both programs have fresh, engaging material in each class.

Sunday School Curriculum:

The *Hearts Alive* Sunday school curriculum is designed to be used during the Sunday school or Bible study hour of a church's weekly worship time. It is divided into three separate age groups and perfect for use in classroom-sized group settings. The age divisions are: Pre-K/Kindergarten, Lower Elementary (grades 1–3), and Upper Elementary (grades 4–6).

Children's Church Curriculum:

The *Hearts Alive* Children's church curriculum offers a weekly church experience tailored just for young followers of Jesus. It is intended for a larger, age-inclusive setting for children from pre-K through grade 5 (ages 4 through 11) designed to help them learn the basics of an adult worship service, including Welcome, Worship, Scripture Reading, Lesson, Creed, Prayer, and Offering. The larger group setting encourages children of varying ages to worship together, mirroring the generational integration of the church. At the close of each lesson, an age-specific breakout time ensures that every child, from the youngest to the oldest, can take part in a follow-up game, craft, or activity that will help them apply the week's lesson to their own lives. Many churches hold Children's church during the first part of the adult worship service. After Children's church concludes, there is time to welcome the children into the adult service for the final portion, often the celebration of Communion/the Eucharist.

How To Use The *Hearts Alive* Curriculum

Hearts Alive follows the 3-year cycle of the RCL. Because liturgical dates vary from year to year, specific dates are not assigned to the lessons. Instead, lessons are numbered and an accompanying online chart identifies which lesson falls on which calendar date for that specific year. In the heading of each lesson, you will find the Lectionary Year, Season, and Week number, plus the associated liturgical day (if applicable) and lectionary reading. This information can help you design your entire congregation's weekly worship experience around shared themes all year, providing a fresh unity to your congregation's spiritual focus and growth.

The first page of each Sunday school and Children's church lesson includes Lesson Title, Key Scripture, Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Lesson Overview. The Big Idea summarizes in one or two sentences the main point you want the children to learn from that day's lesson. The Lesson Overview provides a more in-depth explanation of the key points of the lesson.



Next, there is a Lesson Outline chart to help you stay organized. It tells you what happens when. On this chart, you'll find each lesson component along with a time estimate for how long it will take, a list of the supplies you will need, and a list of the things you'll need to prepare before class for that activity.

A unique Bible Background study is provided for each lesson to help you prepare your heart and mind as a leader or volunteer before class. It aims to provide a thorough understanding of the biblical setting of the day's passage along with any helpful information to help you field questions the children may have about the lesson. (Detailed explanations of each lesson component follow below.)

Anything that needs to be printed and possibly copied for each lesson (the "printables") are included in the download of each lesson. They are designed to be effective using simple black and white printing on standard-sized paper.

Finally, each lesson has a Take-Home page designed to be copied and sent home with the child. The resource is directed either toward parents (Sunday school) or children (Children's church). Either way, parents are encouraged to use the resource to talk with their child about the week's lesson. The page also suggests ways to apply scriptural lessons all week through family discussions and activities.

The Children's Church Curriculum

The Hearts Alive Children's Church curriculum introduces children to an age-appropriate version of an adult worship service. Elements include Welcome, Worship, Scripture Reading, Lesson, Creed, Prayer, and Offering. By "mirroring" an adult service, children will learn how a service flows and understand the components of worship. They will recite a creed, sing worship songs, and hear a Scripture-based lesson. They will also discover various ways of serving in the church; with supervision, children play the roles of acolytes, readers, and offertory collectors. At the end of the worship component, there is a small group breakout segment with a craft, game, or activity to give the children a hands-on lesson application experience. Many churches escort children from Children's Church into the remainder of the adult service, just before Eucharist/Communion. Or, you may choose to have parents meet children after the adult service finishes. Either way, by participating in Children's Church, your congregation's young people will be ready to move comfortably into the adult service when the time comes.

Each Children's Church lesson provides a large group "Lesson and Liturgy," which takes about 45–50 minutes, followed by a small group breakout session (divided by age), which takes about 10–15 minutes. We recommend using one large room for the Lesson and Liturgy so that all ages can get used to worshipping and serving together, then moving to smaller rooms for the small group breakouts. If your church does not have a large group space, you can hold Children's Church services in individual rooms for each age group. If you prefer to do everything in one large space, small



group breakouts may be held in different sections of the room. Either way, children will be dismissed from the small group breakout section either to be led into church or to meet their parents after the service.

Elements of the Lesson and Liturgy:

- ▶ **Lesson Introduction** – A group activity to start the children thinking about the Big Idea and its application.
- ▶ **We Gather** – This part of the lesson will be the same every week. You will designate children to participate in that week’s service: readers, acolytes, and offertory volunteers. (You may choose children to help lead the songs as well.) Rotate the roles each week so every child has a chance to play each role at some point. Then you’ll have your Opening Acclamation and Candle Lighting.
- ▶ **Welcome and Greeting** – This engaging activity gets the children interested in the upcoming lesson while introducing the Scripture theme and Big Idea.
- ▶ **Worship** – Enjoy this section of the service in whatever way works best for your group. Use the recommended songs that fit with the theme or choose others, have live accompaniment, or bring in CD recordings to sing alongside.
- ▶ **Word** – Since the Word of God is an essential element of worship, children will read each week’s Scripture passage aloud. We recommend dividing the passage into a few sections for selected children to read.
- ▶ **Lesson** – The Children’s Church lesson makes a departure from a traditional adult lesson. These lessons for young ones will be active, with movement and visual aids. Any needed printables are provided in the lesson download.
- ▶ **Discussion** – In this section, you can help children process what they learned in the lesson by asking key questions. If your group is large, we recommend walking around with a microphone so children can answer and be heard, or dividing up into groups so that leaders can hold small group discussions of the questions.
- ▶ **Large Group Closing** – Each week’s large group session ends with a Creed, Prayer of Confession, Offering, and Extinguishing of the Candles. You may use the recommended Creed and Prayer of Confession or choose your own. Encourage children to bring in loose change or perhaps a dollar for the offering. Take time to explain why the offering is important and how the church uses it.
- ▶ **Small Groups and Wrap-Up** – After the candles are extinguished, divide children by age—pre-k/kindergarten, lower elementary, and upper elementary—for the small group activity. Small group activities can be held in separate rooms or in



different parts of the large group space. The Wrap-Up is a short closing following the small group activity. At this time, hand out the "Walk It All Week" take-home page and make sure children take any crafts or activity pages home, too.

A Special Note to Leaders

Congratulations on your role in helping to shape young hearts and minds in the Christian faith. Children's Church is a time-honored tradition of inviting the youngest of Christ's family to get to know their Savior, their church family, and their place in the Kingdom of God through weekly participation in a child-friendly worship service. We have specifically designed the *Hearts Alive* curriculum to be everything you need to confidently lead an engaging time of worship, learning, and fun in the service of Christian formation. Here are a few specifics about the curriculum to help you in your role:

- *Hearts Alive* uses the New International Reader's Version (NIRV) of The Holy Scriptures. While remaining faithful to the original text, this translation is easy for children to read and understand. If you choose, you may use a different version in your lessons.
- We have included a unique Bible Background section specifically to help you get familiar with the background of the week's passage of Scripture. We recommend taking some time to read, pray through, and digest this information to help you be prepared for questions and good discussion.
- Much of the lesson content is bolded and prefaced by words like "Say:" or "Continue:" These sections are designed for you, the leader, to speak aloud. However, we suggest that you use the words as a guide rather than reading directly from the page. The most effective way to communicate with children is by making eye contact. Try reading the lesson several times to get a good idea of what you want to say and the main points of the Bible teaching. You may want to highlight the sections you want to be sure to mention specifically. Put other parts into your own words. Have the lesson handy to refer to on paper or electronic tablet as you go.
- Feel free to adapt the curriculum to meet the needs of your class. If a different approach to the lesson works better, go for it! For example, you may choose to swap out drama for a visual aid in the lesson or vice versa. Use what is written as a guide to present the beauty and power of God's Word to your group of children in the most effective way possible.

Jesus said, "*Let the children come to me.*" What greater calling can there be than to lead precious young souls to the heart of God and the joy, peace, and power of living the Christian faith? We pray that you will find the *Hearts Alive* curriculum an exciting and effective way to bring the message of salvation to the children of your congregation and your community, even as your entire church body unites in the weekly exploration of God's Word together.



HOPE COMES FROM JESUS

Romans 13:11–14

Big Idea:

We can “put on” our faith in Jesus every morning the same way we put on our clothes. Because Jesus conquered sin and will return, we can live with hope.

Memory verse:

“Put on the Lord Jesus Christ as if he were your clothing.” Romans 13:14a

Lesson overview

This week's Scripture talks about how Christians live in Jesus's kingdom of light and do “works of light.” Part of our Big Idea says: Because Jesus conquered sin and will return, we can live with hope. So how do we live with hope and do works of light? The Scripture uses the imagery of getting up in the morning. The first verse says it is time to “wake up from your sleep,” followed by, “The day of Christ's return is almost here” (Romans 13:11–12). The next verse says, “Let us get rid of the works of darkness . . . Let us do the works of light” (v. 13). What do we all do after we wake up? We put on our clothes. Part of the Big Idea echoes the memory verse: We can put our faith in Jesus every morning the same way we put on our clothes. One way to do that is to pray to Jesus while putting on our clothes each morning. When we do that, we're ready to do works of light at home, in our neighborhood, and at school.



Week 1 Lesson Outline	Activity and Supplies	To Prepare
<p>Worship (15 minutes)</p>	<p>We Gather</p> <p>Welcome and Greeting The HUGE Difference Between Light and Darkness</p> <p>Songs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional: Music player with Web access • Optional: Visit YouTube and search for “What a Beautiful Name” by Hillsong Worship. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5L6QIAH3L4 • Optional: Visit YouTube and search for “Who You Say I Am” by Hillsong Worship. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcC1Bp13n_4 <p>Word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scripture Reading: Romans 13:11–14 • Appoint one or more readers to read the passage from the Bible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queue the songs for class. • Divide the Scripture passage into short sections for selected readers to read aloud.
<p>Lesson and Discussion (20 minutes)</p>	<p>Hope Comes from Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweater, jacket/coat, and hat 	
<p>Continue to Worship (10 minutes)</p>	<p>Creed Apostle’s Creed (or preferred statement of belief)</p> <p>Prayer of Confession (or another prayer/confession from the prayer book)</p> <p>Offering and Closing</p>	
<p>What It All Means: Small Groups Divided by Age (10 minutes)</p>		
<p>Pre-K / Kindergarten</p> <p>Activity: This Is the Way We Put on Jesus!</p> <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional: Video player with Web access • Optional: Visit YouTube and search for “This is the Way We Get Dressed” by Super Simple Songs – Kids Songs. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GDFa-nEzlg <p>To Prepare: Queue the video for class. Rehearse the song and motions.</p>	<p>Lower Elementary</p> <p>Game: Find a Match</p> <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different colored/patterned pairs of socks, any size (one pair for each child) • 2 identical large bins or buckets • Masking tape <p>To Prepare: Set one sock from each pair in a separate bucket.</p>	<p>Upper Elementary</p> <p>Activity: “Works of Darkness” versus “Works of Light”</p> <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 different hats
<p>Wrap Up (5 minutes)</p>	<p>Recap, pray, and distribute take-home sheets</p>	



Paul's epistle to the Roman house churches sets forth both the doctrine of salvation and the practical application of salvation in our daily lives. Today's passage reminds us that we look ahead to the return of Jesus Christ. In order to be ready to meet him, we intentionally "put on" Jesus as our identity. That means we actively choose to share the attitudes and actions of Jesus, obeying God's laws of love and truth. We do this rather than participate in the societal or culturally accepted behaviors that violate the commands of Christ—even if those behaviors are not against the laws of the state.

In verse 11, Paul reminds his reader of Christ's second coming. Included in this admonition is a reminder of the goodness of God's laws, seen in verse 12: the "works of darkness" harm us, while the "works of light" protect us. God's laws are in place for our good, for our peace, and for our health. Paul uses the easily understood idea of getting dressed to illustrate how we make daily behavioral choices. A young child can understand the act of putting on clothing. Likewise, all believers can choose to "clothe" themselves with the goodness of Jesus, through the help of the Holy Spirit. He strengthens us to live for his glory in every place and every culture.

The passage ends with a reminder of the power of our thoughts. With God's help, we can reject desires that contradict his laws. With his help, we can pursue works of light.



Worship

► We Gather

Prepare for Worship

Greet the children and assign or ask children to choose a job for today's service (examples include readers, acolytes, offertory, crucifer, etc.).

Opening Acclamation

With enthusiasm and boldness, the leader says: **I was glad when they said unto me,** and children reply with enthusiasm in unison, "We will go to the house of the Lord!"

Candle Lighting

Acolyte will go up and light the candles on the altar. The Leader and children say:

Leader: What do the candles mean?

Children: The Light of the World.

Leader: Who is the Light of the World?

Children: Jesus!

► Welcome and Greeting

The HUGE Difference between Light and Darkness

Say: **I love the candle lighting we do each week. It reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the World. In Matthew 5:14, Jesus says that we too are the light of the world.**

This week's Scripture, Romans 13:11–14, talks about those who are the light of the world, doing "works of light." It also talks about the "dark night of evil" and those who do "works of darkness."

There is a HUGE difference between living in Jesus's kingdom of light and living in the "dark night of evil."

I hope you don't mind if I turn the lights on and off a few times today. Don't worry. I won't leave the lights off for long.

The first time, I will turn off the lights and count to ten. Turn the lights off. Count **one, two, three.** Pause. Count **four, five, seven.** Quickly count **eight, nine, ten.** Turn the lights on. Smile. **See, that wasn't**



so bad. Pause. I see a few of you shaking your heads. Did I forget to say one number? What? I forgot to say “six.” Good catch!

Today, we will learn about the HUGE difference between doing “works of light” and “works of darkness.” The good news is “works of light . . . protect us.” The bad news is “works of darkness . . . harm us.”

Because Jesus conquered sin and will return, we can live with hope. Jesus didn’t just say, “Darkness, sin, and evil—Go away!” No, Jesus conquered them. By his death, burial, and resurrection, he defeated darkness, sin, evil, and death. Now he rules as the victorious King. And one day he will come again to take us to be with him forever!

Before we dive further into today’s lesson, let’s worship the Lord with music and Scripture reading.

Songs

“What a Beautiful Name”

“Who You Say I Am”

Word

Scripture Reading: Romans 13:11–14

Have reader(s) among the children come to the front and read their designated portion of the passage. At the end, the final reader says: “The Word of the Lord,” and children respond, “Thanks be to God!”

LESSON AND DISCUSSION

► Hope Comes from Jesus

Set the clothing items to the side. Say: **Thank you, readers. I love that last verse. In fact, it’s our memory verse for today. Romans 13:14a says: “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ as if he were your clothing.”** Repeat the verse.

Remember how Jesus called his people the “light of the world”? This week’s Scripture talks about us doing “works of light.” It uses the imagery of waking up in the morning. It says, it’s time to “wake up from your sleep.” The next verse says, “The day of Christ’s return is almost here” (v. 12). Then it says, “Let us act as we should, like people living in the daytime” (v. 13).

Think about what you do after you wake up in the morning. Before you head for breakfast and then off to church or school, you do something very important. And it’s very important that you do it as correctly as possible. Let me show you what I mean.

Put the sweater on inside out and backwards, so the tag is showing in front. If kids laugh, say: **Wait a second. I’m not finished getting dressed yet.** Put the jacket



on inside out or, if using a button-coat, button it up incorrectly. Say: **Wait, wait! I'm still getting dressed to go.** Then put the hat on backwards or upside down. Say: **OK, all set. Let's go out.** Pause. **Why are you all laughing and snickering? What's wrong?** Let the youngest children respond. **What? Backwards? Inside out?** Look down at your clothes. Put your hand over your mouth. **Wow! You are absolutely right. I sure don't want to go out like this. It would be very embarrassing! And no one would want to be around me.** Take off the inside-out clothes and set them down.

It sure is embarrassing to imagine heading out dressed the wrong way. Well, did you know it should be much more embarrassing to head out anywhere without putting on the Lord Jesus Christ? It's like forgetting something or not dressing appropriately. That's what our memory verse is expressing. It's like saying, before you do anything in your day, remember *who* you are and *whose* you are, and dress accordingly. You are a child of God and belong to Jesus. Therefore, "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ as if he were your clothing."

Even though it's funny to be dressed the wrong way, it isn't funny if we forget to put on the Lord Jesus and his attitude each day. Instead of being funny, it can actually be hurtful.

How can it be hurtful? Let's think about it. What about children who say they love Jesus, but who bully others? Are they wearing the attitude of Jesus? Let the children respond. No! Bullies aren't putting on the Lord Jesus and his love and kindness. Bullies harass, pick on, smart mouth, push, trip, hit, smack around, or steal from other kids. They are not doing "works of light." What kinds of works are they doing? Let the children respond. Yes, they're doing "works of darkness."

If any of you have bullied other kids, you are being hurtful. You are forgetting to "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ as if he were your clothing."

You might say: "But I'm just doing it for a little fun." Guess what? It's not little, and it's not fun. You're doing works of darkness that hurt others—works you wouldn't want done to you.

Instead, ask Jesus to help you live in his kingdom of light and do works of light. If you live in his kingdom, you are like Jesus. You—and you—and you—and you—and you are the "light of the world." You are light-workers.

Let's think about how we can do works of light this week:

First, at home. Home can be the hardest place to "put on the Lord Jesus" and do works of light because we know our family so well. They can get on our nerves! Can you name one or two ways you could do works of light at home this week? Let the children respond. Good answers! Remember, God the Father loves you and wants the best for you. So, don't settle for less at home. Put on Jesus.

Next, how about in your neighborhood? Is there a way you can put on the Lord Jesus and do works of light where you live? Let the children respond. Those are good ideas! A simple wave to a lonely older neighbor or helping clean up



trash can show love toward those around you.

Finally, how about at school? Your principal, your vice principal, your teacher, your classmates, and others all can see whether you dress yourself to do works of darkness or works of light. How can you do works of light at school? Let the children respond.

What if you know you haven't really been doing works of light at home, in your neighborhood, or at school? What if you know you have been disobedient to your parents, rebellious at school, or just unkind to others? Tell Jesus about the wrong you have done. Ask him to help you put him on like clothing—to help you be like him.

You might ask: "But how do I change?" What does our memory verse say? Pause. "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ as if he were your clothing."

One way to do this is to pray to the Lord while you're getting dressed. Talk to Jesus and say: "Lord, I'm putting on my clothes. Much more importantly, I want to put on you. I want my heart to be like your heart. I want my thoughts and words and actions to be your thoughts and words and actions. Live in and through me today. May I be your hands and feet, your heart and voice, doing works of goodness and light today."

Does that excite you? Does it make your heart pump faster? Let's practice saying this prayer together. Repeat it after me, phrase by phrase:

Lord, I'm putting on my clothes.	Children repeat.
Much more importantly,	Children repeat.
I want to put on you.	Children repeat.
I want my heart to be like your heart.	Children repeat.
I want my thoughts and words and actions	Children repeat.
to be your thoughts and words and actions.	Children repeat.
Live in and through me today.	Children repeat.
May I be your hands and feet,	Children repeat.
your heart and voice,	Children repeat.
doing works of goodness and light today.	Children repeat.

Great job listening. Now, I have a few more questions for you.

► Discussion

- We say it every Sunday: Who is the Light of the World? (Jesus)
- Jesus said that we are what? (The light of the world, as well)
- What is the opposite of a work of light? (A work of darkness)
- After you wake up in the morning, what is an important thing to do? (Get dressed)



- ▶ **While you put on your clothes for the day, you can talk to Jesus. What are some things you could say?** (Let the children respond with various parts of the prayer you recited with them.) Then reread the prayer to them.

CONTINUE TO WORSHIP

▶ Creed

(Leader may choose preferred statement of belief.)

The Apostles' Creed

I BELIEVE in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

▶ Prayer of Confession

(Leader may also choose a prayer/confession from the prayer book.)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us your Word so that we can understand your will and grow close to you. Right now, we ask you to forgive us the things that we have done wrong. We are sorry and are willing to



change. We also ask you to help us forgive those who have done unkind things to us. We forgive them. Thank you, Lord, for loving us so much! We pray in Jesus's holy name. Amen.

► Offering

Leader asks for the offertory volunteer to come up. The volunteer walks around with the basket, collecting the offering. The child then brings the basket back to the altar and bows, then returns to sit down. If desired, leader may play music or lead a song during offertory.

► Closing

Put Out the Candles

Leader calls the Acolyte to come up and extinguish the candles.

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Children: Thanks be to God. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

What It All Means

Divide children into age groups for follow-up activities.



What It All Means

Pre-K / Kindergarten

Activity: This Is the Way We Put on Jesus!

Materials:

- *Optional: Video player with Web access*
- *Optional: Visit YouTube and search for "This is the Way We Get Dressed" by Super Simple Songs - Kids Songs. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GDFa-nEzlg>*

To Prepare: *Queue the video for class. Rehearse the song and motions.*

Have the children sit on the floor. Say: **Today we talked about getting dressed—the right way! It’s important, isn’t it? Let’s watch a fun video about getting dressed. Then, we’ll add our own words to the song!**

Play the video.

Assemble the children into a big circle. Teach them the new words to the song:

**This is the way
we put on Jesus,
put on Jesus,
put on Jesus . . .**

**This is the way
we put on Jesus—
We show love
every day!**

Have the children hold hands and sing the words with you, while walking slowly to the right. When they get to “We show love, every day!” have them stop, cross their hands over their heart and turn their shoulders from side to side.

Alternatively, experiment with changing the last line of the song, and adding motions:

We obey our parents.	Shake heads “yes.”
We say kind words with love.	Hand to lips and then on heart.
We pick up all our toys.	Pretend to pick up toys.
We pray for those in need.	Set hands together in prayer.
We’re kind to those at school.	Smile and extend hands in wide circle.

Close with singing the original last line: **“We show love every day!”**

If time permits, have the children take their seats and together recite the memory verse: “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ as if he were your clothing” (Romans 13:14a). You can play “popcorn,” where you divide the group, giving each group a phrase of the verse. When it’s their turn, they stand and say it, then sit down quickly. Get faster and faster, like popcorn.



What It All Means

Lower Elementary

Game: Find a Match

Materials:

- Different colored/patterned pairs of socks, any size (one pair for each child)
- 2 identical large bins or buckets
- Masking tape

To Prepare: Set one sock from each pair in a separate bucket.

Have the children take off their own shoes and socks and line them up against the wall in an orderly fashion. Then, have the children sit on the floor. Say: **What is something we often put on our feet before our shoes?** Let the children respond. **Yes, our socks! Today we are going to put on some socks . . . but there's going to be something funny about these socks. I want you to come up here one at a time and close your eyes and pull one sock—just one—out of each bin. Then take your two socks, sit back down, and put them on!**

As they are doing so, say: **Wow! You sure have some interesting looking feet! What is unusual about all these socks on our feet?** Let the children respond. **You're right. They don't match. Would we want to go out with socks like this?** Let children react. **No! I have an idea. Let's all stand up. Now, when I say Go, I want to see how fast you can find someone who has one sock that matches yours and get that one, and then give your other sock to someone who needs it for their match. At the end, everyone needs to have a matching pair of socks on their feet! Any questions? Ready . . . Go!** If desired, time the children on your phone or watch to see how long it takes.

Great job! Putting on matching socks is kind of like "Putting on the Lord Jesus," as our verse talks about. It makes sense. It feels good to have socks that are the same size and thickness. It helps us walk and run better. When we put on the attitude of Jesus, we walk as God wants us to walk.

Now let's work on our memory verse. Set the bins or buckets in the middle of the room. Have the children line up several feet from one of the bins/buckets. Mark the line with tape. Have the children remove their socks and fold them together. When it's their turn, they will recite one phrase of the verse as they try to toss their socks into the bin or bucket. If they succeed, they will sit down. If they don't, they have to pick up their sock ball and go to the back of the line. Divide the verse this way:

- First person: **"Put on . . .**
Second person: **the Lord Jesus Christ . . .**
Third person: **as if he were . . .**
Fourth person: **your clothing."**

Continue this process until all the children have successfully tossed their sock ball into the bin and said their part of the verse.



What It All Means

Upper Elementary

Activity: “Works of Darkness” Versus “Works of Light”

Materials:

- 2 different hats

Say: **As we talked about in our lesson today, it’s not funny when someone forgets to “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ as if he were your clothing.” Instead of being funny, it can be very hurtful to you and others. We can end up doing works of darkness instead of works of light as Jesus wants us to.**

This can especially be true in your school or at home. Today, we’re going to talk about works of darkness and works of light.

Explain that first you will be asking the children to give examples from home. Have the children line up at one end of the room. Set two hats (one to represent works of darkness and one to represent works of light) at the other end of the room.

Explain: **When I say Go, the first person will walk as fast as they can to the end of the room and put on the works of *darkness* hat. They will then share one work of darkness we sometimes do at home. For example, they might say: “Ignoring my chores.” They will then take off the hat, set it down, and return back to the line as fast as they can. The next person will then walk to the hats, put on the works of *light* hat and give a *positive* example. For example, they might say: “Doing my chores happily.” The goal is to do this as fast as you can. Remember, these are examples about home. Ready? Go!**

Replay the same game, this time with examples from school.

Then say: **Great job! Let’s all ask for God’s help this week to move toward the light and do works of light. The good news is: We don’t have to do it alone. When we know Jesus as our Lord and Savior, his Holy Spirit lives in us. He will help us walk in the light, as he is in the light.**

Say: **Now let’s work on our memory verse.** Have the children make a giant circle and stand arms’ width apart. Set the “works of light” hat on one of the children’s heads. They will go first. They will recite the first phrase of the verse, then remove the hat and hand it to the next child who will put it on and recite the second phrase, and so on all the way around the circle. Then, reverse and go the other way, trying to say it faster. Repeat as time allows. The verse can be divided into the following phrases:

- First person: **“Put on . . .**
Second person: **the Lord Jesus Christ . . .**
Third person: **as if he were . . .**
Fourth person: **your clothing.”**
Fifth person: **Romans 13:14a**



Wrap Up

Say: **In today's Scripture we read about how Christians live in Jesus's kingdom of light and do works of light. We also read about works of darkness. The good news we learned is that "works of light . . . protect us." The bad news is "works of darkness . . . harm us." Part of our Big Idea today said: Because Jesus conquered sin and will return, we can live with hope. So how do we live in hope and do works of light? Our Scripture uses the imagery of getting up in the morning: "Wake up from your sleep . . . The day of Christ's return is almost here . . . Let us act as we should, like people living in the daytime." What do we all do after we wake up? We put on our clothes. We can "put on" our faith in Jesus every morning the same way we put on our clothes. One way to do that is to pray to Jesus while putting on our clothes each day. When we do that, we're ready to do works of light at home, in our neighborhood, and at school.**

Let's pray. Dear Lord, we thank you so much for inviting us to live in Jesus's kingdom of light and do works of light. Thank you that we can live in hope because Jesus conquered sin for us. Please help us remember to put on our faith in Jesus each morning while we put on our clothes. May we do works of light at home, in our neighborhood, and at school. In Jesus's name, Amen.

Children line up to meet their parents. Hand them a "Walk It All Week" take-home page and lead them into church.



WEEK 1

WALK IT ALL WEEK

Hope Comes from Jesus

○ **Scripture:** Romans 13:11–14

○ **Big Idea:** We can “put on” our faith in Jesus every morning the same way we put on our clothes. Because Jesus conquered sin and will return, we can live with hope.

○ **Memory Verse:** “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ as if he were your clothing.” Romans 13:14a

Table TALK

At dinner, ask your family to share times when they have been blessed by works of light. These can include blessings from within your immediate family, extended family, and friends and neighbors. See how many you can recall!

Remember

What do we all do after we wake up? We put on our clothes. We can “put on” our faith in Jesus every morning the same way we put on our clothes. One way to do that is to pray to Jesus while getting dressed each day. Then we’re ready to do works of light at home, in our neighborhood, and at school.

Try This

Our memory verse says: “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ as if he were your clothing.” This week, as you’re getting dressed, say this prayer aloud. You might want to tape it to your wall:

Lord, I’m putting on my clothes.

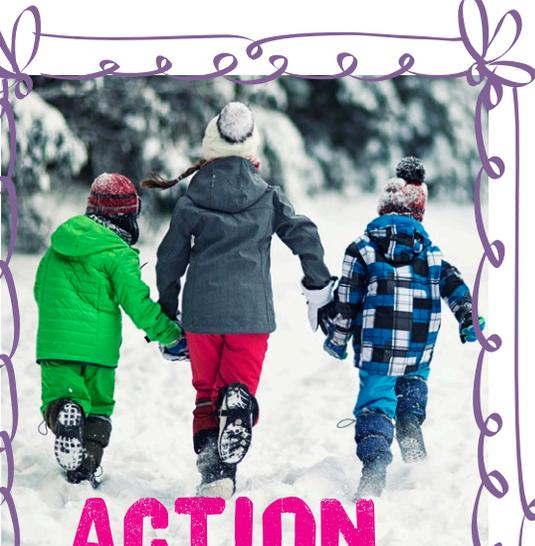
Much more importantly, I want to put on you.

I want my heart to be like your heart.

I want my thoughts and words and actions to be your thoughts and words and actions.

Live in and through me today.

May I be your hands and feet, your heart and voice, doing works of goodness and light today. Amen.



ACTION

How can your family participate in works of light? Maybe order take-out meals and distribute them to the homeless. Or set up a temporary “living room” in your driveway with chairs, tables, beverages, and refreshments to share with neighbors. Have fun!