

# Gospel Light Elementary Sunday School



God is  
with me!

## Sample Lesson

Includes links to all related resources

# Give ME Jesus!



Includes a Link to  
Downloadable Lesson  
Extras

## Teacher Guide

Fall A • Grades 3 & 4

# Welcome to Dangerous Times!



This quarter, you and your kids will discover the adventure of trusting God's faithfulness in the midst of dangerous times. As students learn about people who lived in the times of 2 Kings through Judah's exile and the return to the Promised Land, they will learn to trust and follow God just as Daniel and others did.

If this is your first time to teach this material or if you'd like a quick refresher, go to our website at [www.gospellightsundayschool.com](http://www.gospellightsundayschool.com). But if you're ready to venture in to exciting times, then follow these easy

## 1-2-3 STEPS





### Prepare and Pray



1. Check out the lesson introduction. The Big Idea tells why the lesson will make a difference in kids' lives—and in your life, too! The Action Plan helps you focus on what kids can do in this lesson to apply the Big Idea to life! Connecting You to Jesus shows how the action in this lesson's Bible story points to Jesus.
2. Read the lesson and customize it for your kids by marking the activities you plan to do. Pray for God to help you reach your kids and show His love to them.
3. Gather the materials you need—they're listed right there for you!

### Teach



1. **Get Thinking:** Welcome your kids and use this activity to help them think about today's Big Idea!
2. **Get God's Word:**  This is the heart and soul of your time together! Use the Story Starter to draw kids in and the fun Storytelling Idea to get kids participating as you tell the story.
3. **Get Talking:**  Help kids talk about ways they can apply the Bible to their lives. Whiteboard Time, *Kid Talk Cards*, cool art activities and energetic games will keep your kids interacting with one another, with you and with God! (And get families talking, too, by handing out *Family Fridge Fun* papers for kids to take home.) End with a prayer time together!

### CONNECT TO FAMILIES

Check out the Fall Family Event in the downloadable lesson extras! This is a must-have event that really helps you to pump up parent participation in your program and help them grow faith at home. Get your parents involved!

Ready for an adventure?

## LET'S GO



# Contents



## Articles

Welcome to Dangerous Times! .....	1
Connecting Kids to Jesus .....	3

## Lessons

<b>Lesson 1</b> Joash, Boy King ✱ 2 Kings 11—12 .....	6
<b>Lesson 2</b> Jonah's Journey ✱ Jonah 1—3 .....	16
<b>Lesson 3</b> God's People Pray ✱ 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 .....	26
<b>Lesson 4</b> A King Celebrates ✱ 2 Chronicles 29—30 .....	36
<b>Lesson 5</b> Jeremiah Tells God's Words ✱ Jeremiah 36 .....	46
<b>Lesson 6</b> Daniel Takes a Stand ✱ Daniel 1 .....	56
<b>Lesson 7</b> Three in a Furnace? ✱ Daniel 3 .....	66
<b>Lesson 8</b> Writing on a Wall ✱ Daniel 5 .....	76
<b>Lesson 9</b> In the Lions' Den ✱ Daniel 6 .....	86
<b>Lesson 10</b> From Orphan to Queen ✱ Esther 2—4 .....	96
<b>Lesson 11</b> Esther Saves the Jews ✱ Esther 5—10 .....	106
<b>Lesson 12</b> Nehemiah's Trip Home ✱ Nehemiah 1—3 .....	116
<b>Lesson 13</b> Nehemiah Rebuilds ✱ Nehemiah 4:1—6:16 .....	126



## Gospel Light Sunday School Curriculum

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## Downloadable Lesson Extras



Download this quarter's digital package at [URL removed for this sample].

In the digital package, you will find instructions for the Fall Family Event, teacher-training articles, Song Motion Charts, and Lesson Extras such as game cards, patterns, and more! Refer to the "What to Print" included in the digital content.

## Basic Supplies to Keep on Hand



Markers, pencils, paper (copy paper, construction paper, butcher paper, card stock, etc.), scissors, glue sticks, tape (clear and masking).

## Materials Needed for Each Lesson



Bibles, whiteboard and markers, *Bible Teaching Poster Pack*, *Kid Talk Cards Grades 3 & 4*, *Family Fridge Fun* papers, *Get Going! Worship CD* and player, several copies of *What the Bible Is All About Bible Handbook for Kids*.

# Connecting Kids to Jesus

God's big picture of redemption throughout the Bible is the prime feature of this course! A focus on Jesus is in every lesson. Connecting You to Jesus, in the introduction of every lesson, will familiarize you with how the characters and the action of the lesson's Bible story point to Jesus and God's plan for salvation. These same concepts, written in kid-friendly words, are also part of each lesson's Wrap-Up: Connecting Kids to Jesus will give you the words to say to help your students see God's big plan for the ages—and how they can each be a part of that amazing plan!

But the best part of connecting kids to Jesus is helping them join His family! It's a huge joy—and it's easy! Here's a quick breakdown:

**Pray.** Start by praying for each kid you teach—keep a list on your phone or computer, in your prayer journal or in your Bible. Invite God to prepare each child to understand and receive His good news.

### Talk one-on-one.

Because kids are easily influenced to follow the group, be wise in the way you invite kids



to join God's family when you're in a group setting. Make it easy for kids who express interest to talk and pray with a prepared adult—but without pressure.

**Be clear.** Kids need to understand the gospel! So we need to use words and phrases kids understand. And don't assume that they do understand just because they can repeat something back to you. Avoid symbolic terms ("born again," "ask Jesus to come into your heart," "open your heart," etc.). Those can confuse these literal-minded thinkers. (For some great words, check out the evangelism booklet *God Loves You!* It's available from Gospel Light.) Mark the Scriptures below. Read them aloud with an interested kid so that it's clear that joining God's family through repentance and faith in Jesus is God's big, beautiful idea!

### Take Scripture Steps into God's Family

1. **God wants you to become His child. Why do you think God wants you in His family?** (See 1 John 3:1.)
2. **You and I and every person in the world have done wrong things. The Bible word for doing wrong is "sin." What do you think should happen to us when we sin?** (See Romans 6:23.)
3. **God loves you so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross to take the punishment for your sin. Because Jesus never sinned, He is the only One who can take the punishment for your sin. On the third day after Jesus died, what happened?** (See 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 John 4:14.)
4. **Are you sorry for your sin? Tell God that you are. Do you believe Jesus died for your sin and then rose again? Tell Him that, too. If you tell God you are sorry for your sin and believe that Jesus died to take your sin away, what does the Bible say God will do?** (See 1 John 1:9.)
5. **The Bible says that when you believe that Jesus is God's Son and that He is alive today, you receive God's gift of eternal life. This gift makes you a child of God. This means God is with you now and forever!** (See John 1:12; 3:16.)

Another approach is to give each child in your class a copy of *God Loves You!* and read through the booklet together as a group. Ask, "What did you think about the booklet? What do you think is the most important part of the booklet? After reading the booklet, how would you describe Jesus?"

**Celebrate!** YES! You have permission to be excited when a kid joins God's family! Encourage those kids to tell their families. Give their names to your pastor. And don't leave any babies to fend for themselves! Make yourself available to help them grow, or find another adult who will help them. Use the discipling booklet *Following Jesus* (available from Gospel Light) as a simple, effective way to help kids think about ways to grow in God's family.

### TIP

Telling the good news about Jesus includes demonstrating Jesus' love. Every child should feel secure and loved in the church family. For the child whose home situation has not fostered feelings of love, you need to make special efforts to give extra attention. Be sure to notice and encourage the child's actions. Use the child's name frequently as you chat. Be interested in what he or she has to say. Listen attentively. These actions all build loving relationships. And loving relationships are what God's family is all about! Show the love of Jesus in a way that a child can see and understand.



# Joash, Boy King

## Dear Teacher,

I recently heard a woman who'd survived a mass shooting tell her story. She and a friend had met for lunch in a mall food court, but after sitting down, decided to change tables. Minutes later, terrorists entered—and shot dead the man sitting in the chair from which she had just moved. Protected from death? She surely believed so!

Many of us can tell stories like this. Maybe they're not as dramatic, but they're no less real. And when I'm faced with a "saved from death" experience, I have to realize that God protects my life—and praise Him!

But God saves lives for His eternal purposes! He doesn't keep us alive so we can coast. He wants to use us to do things in this world that He's uniquely prepared us to do!



*Mary Davis*  
Editor



Connecting You to Jesus

When Joash's young life was threatened by his own pagan grandmother, God proved His power and protected him. Since Joash was in David's family, it was another attempt by the enemy to stop the Messiah's family line before He was ever born! Jesus' life was similarly threatened by Herod. God not only protected Him, but also brought the final triumph over the enemy through Him! God always has the last word. No human can thwart His purposes. He prevails!



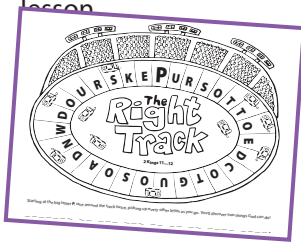
## LESSON MATERIALS

- The basics (see contents)
- Binoculars
- Get Thinking—Empty plastic bottle, tennis ball
- Story Starter—doll or toy figure
- Story props (see p. 9)
- Materials for Art or Game activity (see pp. 14-15)

## Downloadable Lesson Extras!



1. Students discover the order of books in the Bible by playing **Line Up the Books**. Use the first 12 books of the Old Testament for this lesson.



2. Students discover today's Big Idea by completing **"The Right Track"** puzzle.





# Get Thinking

(10-15 minutes)

Welcome students and help them begin to think about today's Big Idea.

## Protect It!

Ahead of time, set plastic bottle in an open area. Students kneel or stand in a circle around it. A volunteer is the first Protector. Protector stands inside the circle and tries to keep rolling ball from knocking over bottle, using only his or her feet and legs. Give a student the ball. Student rolls ball across circle, trying to knock over bottle. When bottle falls, student who rolled ball becomes the next Protector. Play several rounds.



## Big Idea

God can protect us and use us to do good things.

## YOU NEED

Empty plastic bottle,  
tennis ball.

## Connect:

- How did it feel to be the Protector? What made it hard to do?
- What are some other things we protect? What do you do to protect your (bike, video game)?
- We protect things we value. We also protect people who can't protect themselves, like babies or younger kids.

- Today we'll be talking about how God protects us—because He values us!



# Get God's Word



(15-25 minutes)

## Joash, Boy King

Help students find 2 Kings 11 in their Bibles. Tell the following story summary in your own words, guiding students to find answers in their Bibles.

### Story Starter

Ask for three volunteers. Show the doll or toy figure. **Here's the challenge. One of you will hide this doll while two of you close your eyes. We'll count to ten. Then, see how quickly you two can find the doll!** Students count aloud to ten. If volunteers have trouble finding hidden doll, students give "cold" or "hot" clues. **Today in our Bible study, we'll find out who was hidden—and why!**

### YOU NEED

Downloadable Bible for yourself and each student, [Lesson 1 Poster](#), doll or toy figure, Cue Cards, binoculars.



### STORYTELLING IDEA

Show appropriate [Cue Cards](#) to guide students' responses as directed throughout the story.

### A Royal Mess!

After King Solomon died, things started to become VERY confusing! Kings had many wives. So there were half-brothers and half-sisters. On top of THAT, many wives came from other countries. They brought their country's idols and worshiped them. **Uh-oh!**

On top of THAT, these wives usually got the kings to worship those idols, too! So people all over both Israel and Judah worshiped all kinds of false gods! **DOUBLE Uh-oh!**

### TIP

Invite a volunteer to read aloud information about 2 Kings 11 on page 96 in *What the Bible Is All About for Kids*.

Now God's Temple was still in Judah and some people worshiped God. But a king might order everyone to worship some OTHER god, too! It went on like this for YEARS—back and forth, people worshiping all kinds of false gods! It was a confusing MESS. **Boo!**

On top of THAT, it was common for a new king who came to power to kill ANYONE who might be in line for the throne—even his own children!

So now, we present the account of one big mess! It's the story of how GOD protected someone and used him to do good things! **Yay!**

## Run and Hide!

King Ahaziah of Judah died. His mother, Athaliah (ath-u-LIE-uh), wanted to be the ONLY one LEFT to rule Judah! So she ordered her soldiers to kill EVERYONE else in the royal family—even her grandchildren! But in the horrible chaos, one person took action to SAVE a life. **Read 2 Kings 11:2 to see who it was.**

Jehosheba was the aunt of baby Joash. She was married to the high priest, Jehoiada. They worshiped the one true God. And of course, baby Joash had a better claim to the throne than Athaliah did. He was the SON of the dead king! **Ooooh!**

## It's Time!

For six YEARS, baby Joash stayed hidden in the Temple. Athaliah ruled. We can only imagine what an awful six years THAT was! **Boo!**

But when Joash was seven years old, Jehoiada the priest made a plan. **Read 2 Kings 11:4 to find out what Jehoiada did!** He placed all of these soldiers so that he could be SURE that Athaliah did not STOP Joash from being crowned king! **DOUBLE Uh-oh!**





Joash was brought out and Jehoiada put a crown on his head. He proclaimed him the new king. **Yay!** The people clapped and shouted, “Long live the KING!”

Athaliah heard the noise and RAN to the Temple. **Read 2 Kings 11:14 to see what she did.** Athaliah was FURIOUS! But



the soldiers closed in, took her outside and she died there. There was peace in the city, the Bible says, because Athaliah was gone!

But the BEST part was to come! Everyone in Judah got rid of their idols. They tore down the temples and altars of the false gods. They worshiped God! **Yay!**

## Good Things!

When Joash grew up, he made sure that the Temple of God was repaired. People brought in money for the job—and for a while, things didn’t get done. **Uh-oh!**

### TIP

Show **Lesson 1 Poster**. Students tell what kinds of jobs people might have done to repair the Temple.

So then Joash and Jehoiada made SURE the work got done. They hired men to supervise and made sure the money went to the workers. **Read about the workers in 2 Kings 12:15. Yay!**

The work took a long time, but things were finally repaired. God had protected Joash and kept him alive. God used him to restore the Temple. So after all the years of mess and confusion, God’s people could FINALLY worship God in His Temple! **Yay!**



## Wrap-Up

When Joash was a baby, it looked like he would never be king. It looked like things would always be a mess in Judah. But God is stronger than anything. He protected Joash. He had a plan for his life. God used him to do good things!

Read Psalm 55:22 aloud. We can trust God and not worry. He knows how to take care of us—and He has plans for our future! Show binoculars. Binoculars help us see far ahead. They can help us to remember that we can trust God. He can see far ahead. Even though we don't know the future, we know God has a plan for us. He will protect us. He will use our lives and do good things through us in the future, far ahead!

## Action Plan

Talk about ways God might use us to do good things in the future.

## Connecting Kids to Jesus



Joash's grandmother wanted him dead—but God protected him. He had good plans for Joash. Joash was part of King David's family—and later, Jesus was born from that same family. King Herod wanted to kill baby Jesus. But God protected Jesus, too. God's good plan for Jesus was that through Him we could join His family! God is stronger than anyone or anything!



# Get Talking

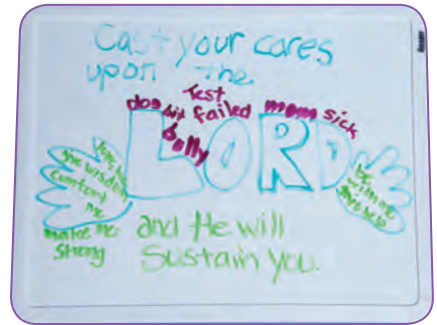
(25-30 minutes)

## Whiteboard Time



In large letters, write "LORD" across the center of the whiteboard and read Psalm 55:22 aloud.

**What does this verse tell us to do?** Invite students to take turns writing cares a kid might have (bully, trouble in school, parent ill, etc.) so that the answers lie on top of the large "LORD" (as if they've been cast there). Write the first phrase of the verse above "LORD." Then draw two hand shapes coming out from the word "LORD," and add the second phrase of the verse below hands. Students write ways God can sustain, or help, us on the open hands. **God will sustain us. He will take care of us. He can protect us and use us to do good things!**



Distribute [Lesson 1 Kid Talk Cards](#). Students complete the time line on Side 1 and unscramble words to discover a message.

- **When Joash was a baby, what happened?**  
**How did God protect him?** (Jehosheba hid him for six years.)
- **How did things change in Judah because of Joash?** (The people got rid of their idols and worshiped God.)
- **What good things did Joash do?** (Made sure the Temple was repaired so God's people could worship.)



Students look at Side 2 of [Kid Talk Cards](#). Students make their own personal time lines to think about ways God might use their lives in the future.

- **What are some reasons we can trust God to care for us?** (He is powerful. He is good. He's stronger than anything. He loves us.)
- Point to photo of binoculars. **Binoculars help us see far ahead. Even though we don't know the future, we can trust God to protect us. He can do good things through us in the future, far ahead!**
- **What are some good things God might use us to do in the future?** (Build something useful. Help others. Pray for others. Feed hungry people.)

## Prayer



Invite volunteers to tell prayer requests as you write them on the whiteboard. Each student writes on a Post-it Note® the name of a person who might need God's protection. Students trade notes, placing them in their Bibles as prayer reminders. Then pray with students about the needs and concerns they mention.

## Art

Students cut out facial features from various magazine or glossy advertisement photos and then assemble them into new faces, using a variety of features. Invite students to make up a story about the "person" they made and what good things God might have planned for that person to do.

### YOU NEED

Magazines or ad pages,  
scissors, glue sticks,  
construction paper.

**Connect:** Thank you for telling your stories and showing us your collages. These faces are pretty interesting—and unusual looking! But that's a good thing. It can remind us that God loves us no matter how we look. He has good plans for us. He'll protect us. He has good things for us to do in the future!

### TIPS

1. If you lack magazines or glossy ads, students draw pictures of faces, cut them into facial features, group sets of features and then trade them to make collages.
2. Students may also add thought bubbles or conversation balloons to collages.



## Game

Ahead of time, make five masking-tape lines on the floor, about 4 feet (1.2 m) apart, like football yard lines, and long enough for class to stand on. Number lines "11," "13," "18," "21" and "25."

### YOU NEED

Masking tape, permanent marker.

**When I call out a number, jump onto the line with that number.** Call out a series of numbers; students jump on each line as it is called. When all students are on a line, stop calling and choose a student to tell something God might have him or her do at the age (number) written on the line. Play rounds until all students have answered at least twice.

**Connect:** You all have some great ideas of things God might use you to do in the future. We can't see the future, but we can trust that God knows. He protects us and gives us good things to do!

## Get Going



Direct students to look again at Side 2 of their [\*Kid Talk Cards\*](#). As we listen to this song, think about ways God has protected you and thank Him. Then ask God to help you know what He wants you to do in the future. Play "[\*I Will Praise You\*](#)" (on *Worship DVD* or track 6 on *Worship CD*), inviting students to listen or sing along. Distribute [\*Lesson 1 Family Fridge Fun\*](#) papers as students leave.

