

## 2022-23 Gopher Buddies Bible Study

The Gopher Buddies curriculum is a three-year Bible study program for ages 4-6 that uses a themed approach to learning God's Word. The curriculum has 48 lessons and is divided into several

two and four-lesson modules as well as individual stand-alone lessons. A variety of active teaching methods are used, including visuals and puppets, to engage the students each week.

### Foundational Truth Lessons



#### THE BIBLE - I Will Share God's Word

**Jonah Shares God's Word:** Children will know that God told Jonah to go and share His Word with the people of Nineveh and that because he disobeyed he was swallowed by a large fish.

**Saul Learns About God:** Children will learn Saul's life was changed from persecuting Christians to sharing the Good News about Jesus with others.

**Paul Shares About Jesus in Jail:** Children will learn that Paul and Silas shared the Good News about Jesus with the jailer, and he and his family were saved.

**Module Review Lesson (Puppets):** Using the Gopher Buddies' Puppets, this lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the first three lessons of this module.



#### GOD - God Cares For Me

**God Cares for Elijah:** Children will know that God cared for Elijah by providing all that Elijah needed.

**God Cares for Elisha:** Children will know that God showed He cared for Elisha by providing good friends who helped him.

**God Cares for Naaman:** Children will know that God cared for Naaman and healed him of leprosy. They will know that God cares for them by giving them the Bible, which helps them to know what God wants them to do.

**Module Review Lesson (Puppets):** Using the Gopher Buddies' Puppets, this lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the first three lessons of this module.



#### JESUS - Friends of Jesus

**Jesus' Friend, Lazarus:** Children will know that Jesus loved His friend Lazarus and was sad when Lazarus died. They will know that Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

**Jesus' Friend, Matthew:** Children will know Jesus not only wanted to be Matthew's friend, He wanted Matthew to be one of His special helpers.

**Jesus' Friend, Mary:** Children will learn that Mary showed her love for Jesus by pouring perfume on his head. They will talk about different ways they can show their love to Jesus.

**Module Review Lesson (Puppets):** Using the Gopher Buddies' Puppets, this lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the first three lessons.



#### CHRISTIAN GROWTH - God Teaches Me About Love

**God's Love for Me:** Children will know that God loves them so much He sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for their sin.

**My Love for God:** Children will review God's love for them and begin to understand they can show God that they love Him by showing love to other people.

**Jesus Wants Me to Love Others:** Children will know that God not only wants them to love those people who love them, but He also wants them to love their enemies.

**Module Review Lesson (Puppets):** Using the Gopher Buddies' Puppets, this lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the first three lessons.



#### SIN - God Sees Our Sin

**Moses Sins:** Children will learn that Moses disobeyed God. They will begin to understand what sin is, and that there is a price to pay for their sin.

**Ananias and Sapphira Try to Hide Their Sin:** Children will learn that Ananias and Sapphira lied to Peter and tried to hide their sin from God.

**Jesus Wants to Take Away My Sin:** Children will learn that God calls the things they do that make Him sad, sin, and God sent His Son, Jesus, to pay the price for their sin.

**Module Review Lesson (Puppets):** Using the Gopher Buddies' Puppets, this lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the first three lessons.



#### THE CHURCH - I Learn About God's Plan For the Church

**The Church Learns to Share:** Children will learn how people in the early church shared their belongings. They will learn that when they share, they show others that they love them, and that they love God.

**The Church Grows:** Children will learn that the Thessalonians imitated and acted like Jesus. They will understand that because the Thessalonians acted like Jesus, other people wanted to know Jesus, and the church grew.

**The Church Learns to Serve:** Children will learn that the church needs many kinds of helpers. They will be introduced to the truth that God gives people in the church different gifts to help others and serve Him.

**Module Review Lesson (Puppets):** This lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the first three lessons.

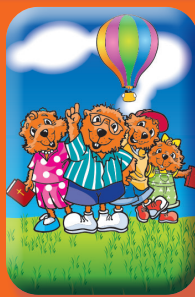
### Themed Lessons

#### Parent Night

**Jairus Cares For His Daughter:** Children and parents will know that Jairus loved his daughter and trusted Jesus to make her well.

#### Friend Night

**Jesus Wants to Be Our Friend:** Children will know that God's Word says Jesus wants to be their friend. They will begin to understand that Jesus loves them so much that He gave His life for them.



#### Christmas

**The Wise Men Worship Jesus:** Children will know that the wise men wanted to find Jesus so they could worship Him. The children will begin to understand what it means to worship Jesus.

#### Easter

**Thomas Believes in Jesus:** Children will understand that Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection were real. They will learn that Thomas believed Jesus was alive when he was able to touch the nail prints in Jesus' hands and put his hand in Jesus' side.

# Character Trait Lessons



## Love

**Love Your Neighbor:** Children will know that God commands us to love others. They will begin to understand what loving others as themselves means.

**Module Review Lesson (Puppets):** This lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the previous lesson.



## Courage

**Courage in the Flames:** Children will learn how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego courageously faced the flames of the fiery furnace rather than compromise their faith.

**Module Review Lesson (Puppets):** This lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the previous lesson.



## Patience

**Joseph is Patient:** Children will learn how Joseph was imprisoned. They will learn that Joseph had to be patient and wait in prison to find out what God's plans were for him.

**Module Review Lesson (Puppets):** This lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the previous lesson.



## Giving

**A Widow Gives to God:** The children will know that when the widow gave all she had, she showed her love for God. They will learn that there are many ways they can give to God to show Him that they love Him.

**Module Review Lesson (Puppets):** This lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the previous lesson.

## Summer Modules

While most churches choose to run a nine-month program using 36 lessons, there are some who prefer to meet throughout the summer months. For those groups, there are an additional twelve summer series lessons provided in each year's Gopher Buddies Bible study. These lessons are grouped into six two-lesson modules. Because attendance in the summer months may be somewhat irregular, each summer lesson is designed to stand on its own.



## Celebrate Families

**Naomi's Special Family:** The children will learn that God gave Naomi a special family who helped her in many ways. They will learn that God gives them special families, too, who help them in many ways.

**The Joy-Filled Jailer's Family:** The children will learn that Paul and Silas told the jailer who was guarding them to believe in Jesus. They will also learn that the jailer's whole family was filled with joy because they believed in Jesus.



## Celebrate Our Church

**A Hole in the Roof:** The children will learn that some men brought their friend who could not walk to see Jesus. They will learn that because of the crowd, the men lowered their friend through a hole in the roof right in front of Jesus. They will begin to understand that they can also help their friends know about Jesus.

**Wake-up, Eutychus:** The children will learn that while Paul was speaking a long time to the believers, a young man named Eutychus went to sleep and fell out a window. The children will begin to understand that God brought Eutychus back to life.



## Celebrate God's Presence

**The Good Shepherd:** The children will learn that David wrote songs about how great God is. They will begin to understand that just as a shepherd watches over the sheep, God watches over them.

**God Knows Me:** The children will learn that David wrote songs about how great God is. The children will begin to understand that God knows everything about them. They will also understand that God made each one of them wonderful and amazing.



## Celebrate: God Keeps His Promises

**A Baby for Sarah:** The children will learn that Sarah laughed when she heard that she would have a baby. The children will also learn that even though Sarah and Abraham were old, God kept His promise and gave them a baby boy. The children will begin to understand that they can trust God to keep His promises.

**Simeon Sees the Savior:** The children will learn that God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen Jesus. They will understand that Simeon recognized Jesus as the Savior sent from God. They will begin to understand that one of the most wonderful promises God kept was sending Jesus to make a way for us to go to Heaven.



## Celebrate God's Power

**The Sun Stands Still:** The children will learn that God helped Israel win a great battle over their enemies. They will understand that God showed His power by stopping the sun in the middle of the sky. The children will also begin to understand that God will help them just as He helped the Israelites.

**Jars and Jugs:** The children will learn that God showed His power by providing flour and oil for the widow and her son. The children will begin to understand that just as God took care of the widow, He will take care of them, too.



## Celebrate: God Takes Care of Us

**Water from a Rock:** The children will learn that the Israelites complained when they did not have water to drink. They will also learn that God told Moses to hit a rock and when he did, water came out of the rock. The children will begin to understand that just as God took care of the Israelites and gave them water to drink, He will take care of them and give them what they need.

**Flowers and Birds:** The children will learn that Jesus told the people that God takes care of the birds and flowers. The children will begin to understand that just as God takes care of the birds and flowers, He will take care of them, too.