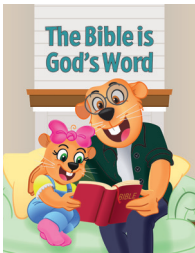




## 2023-24 Gopher Buddies Bible Study

The Gopher Buddies curriculum is a Bible study program for early learners ages 4-6. The curriculum has 48 lessons that are divided into several two- and four-lesson modules. In addition, there are four holiday-themed stand-alone lessons.

### Foundational Truth Lessons



#### THE BIBLE - The Bible is God's Word

**God Speaks through His Word:** Children will understand that just as God spoke to Samuel in the night, He speaks to them today through His Word. Children will understand that reading God's Word and doing their Quiet Time daily will help them know what God wants them to do.

**God's Word is for Me:** Children will learn that God's Word is for everyone, including children. They will understand that God always desires that we come to Him.

**I Can Learn from God's Word:** Children will learn that Philip helped the Ethiopian man understand what he was reading from the Bible. They will begin to understand that God gives us special people who help us understand His Word.

**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.



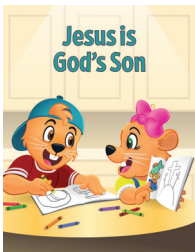
#### GOD - God the Creator

**God Made All Things:** Children will learn that God spoke and created the heavens and earth. He made the sky and water, land and its vegetation in just four days. Children will learn to worship God by sharing about the things God has made with those around them.

**God Creates Living Things:** Children will learn that God created birds, fish, and land animals on days five and six of creation. The children will also know that no one else can do the things that God can do.

**God Creates Man:** Children will understand God created the first man and woman to be in a relationship with Him. Children will understand that sin separates them from God and learn that God has made a way for us to be friends with Him again.

**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.



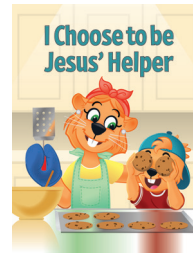
#### JESUS - Jesus is God's Son

**Jesus Goes to His Father's House:** Children will begin to understand that Jesus is the Son of God. They will see how important it is to learn about God by the example Jesus gave us when He visited the temple as a child.

**Jesus Does Not Sin:** Children will learn that Jesus used God's Word to help Him make good choices. The children will understand that Jesus never sinned.

**Nicodemus Visits God's Son:** Children will understand that Jesus is the Son of God. They will understand how they can get to Heaven and will have an opportunity to receive Christ.

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



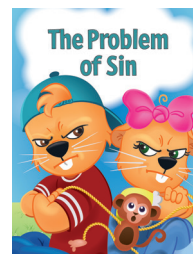
#### CHRISTIAN GROWTH - I Choose to be Jesus' Helper

**John the Baptist Prepares the Way for Jesus:** Children will learn that John the Baptist helped Jesus by telling others about Him.

**The Disciples Follow Jesus:** Children will understand that just like the disciples, Jesus wants them to follow Him, too. They will learn how they can follow Him.

**A Little Boy Helps Jesus:** Children will know that they can help Jesus just like the boy who shared his lunch.

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



#### SIN - The Problem of Sin

**The First Sin:** Children will understand that Adam and Eve's disobedience separated them from God. Children will understand what sin is and that there is a price to pay for sin.

**Zacchaeus Turns from Sin:** Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though he was a sinner. Children will understand that, like Zacchaeus, Jesus will forgive their sins, too.

**Jesus Came to Take Away My Sin:** Children will be taught that Jesus loves them and paid the price for their sins when He died on the cross. They will understand He arose, lives again, and wants to give them the gift of eternal life.

**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 the Church

**The First Church:** Children will learn how the church began. They will understand that when the first believers met, they learned about Jesus together, ate together, prayed together, and helped each other.

**The Church Prays for Peter:** Children will understand that while Peter was in prison, the people in the church prayed for him. The children will understand that God answered the prayers of the people of the church.

**Dorcas, a Great Helper in the Church:** Children will understand that Tabitha helped others in the church by making clothes and doing other kind things for them.

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

### Themed Lessons

#### Parent Night

**God's Special Plan for Parents & Children:** This lesson is designed to inform parents about what happens at Gopher Buddies. The Bible lesson will teach that God loves children and their parents. He has a special plan for each of them.

#### Friend Night

**A Good Friend:** This lesson is designed to be a night when children invite their friends. The lesson will teach that God wants them to help others, just as the good Samaritan helped the man who was hurt.



#### Christmas

**Happy Birthday Jesus!:** The children will understand that God loves us so much that He gave us a very special gift— His Son, Jesus. The children will understand that the reason we celebrate Christmas is to celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.

#### Easter

**The Empty Tomb:** The children will understand that Jesus died for their sins and is alive today.

# Character Trait Lessons



## Self-Control

**Daniel Uses Self-Control:** The children will learn how Daniel had self-control when he chose to obey God.

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



## Forgiveness

**Joseph Forgives His Brothers:** The children will learn that just like God wanted Joseph to forgive his brothers, they should forgive those who hurt them.

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



## Honesty

## Honesty

**Honesty Pleases God:** The children will understand that God wants them to always tell the truth with their words and actions.

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



## Sharing

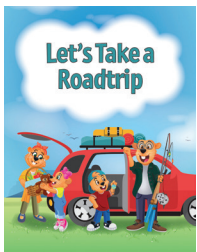
## Sharing

**The Church Shares:** The children will learn that God has given us all that we have and that He is pleased when we share our things, time, and words with others.

**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.



## Let's Take a Road Trip!

### Let's Take a Road Trip!

**Abraham Moves to a New Home:** The children will learn that when God told Abraham to leave his home and move to a new land, Abraham did what God told him to do. The children will begin to understand that they can learn what God wants them to do by reading God's Word, the Bible.

**Sweet Dreams, Jacob:** The children will learn that Jacob had a special dream where God promised to watch over Jacob wherever he went. The children will begin to understand that like Jacob, God will watch over them wherever they go.



## Let's Talk to God

### Let's Talk to God!

**What is Prayer?:** The children will learn that prayer is talking to God and that He hears our prayers and will answer them according to His will.

**Nehemiah Prays:** The children will learn that Nehemiah prayed to God for help to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. They will learn that like Nehemiah, they can talk to God when they need help, too.



## Let's Learn About God's Help

### Let's Learn about God's Help

**The Twelve Spies:** The children will learn that Moses sent twelve men to see what the new land looked like. They will learn that ten of the men were afraid, but Joshua and Caleb told the people not to be afraid because God would help them. The children will begin to understand that God will help them when they are afraid.

**Gideon:** The children will learn that God helped Gideon's small army win a battle because Gideon did what God told him to do. The children will learn that God will also help them when they follow Him.



## Let's Learn About God's Love

### Let's Learn About God's Love

**The Lost Sheep:** The children will learn that Jesus told a story about a good shepherd who looked for his lost sheep. The children will begin to understand that God is like the shepherd: He loves and cares for each one of us.

**The Lost Son:** The children will learn that Jesus told a story about a father and his lost son. They will begin to understand that God is like the father in the story: He loves everyone and wants them to come to Him.



## Let's Learn More About Jesus

### Let's Learn More About Jesus

**Jesus Cares about a Sick Woman:** The children will learn that a sick woman was healed when she touched Jesus' robe. They will learn that just as Jesus cared about the woman, He cares for them, too.

**Jesus Is Alive!** The children will learn that Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and came back to life on the third day. They will also learn that one day after Jesus came back to life, He fixed breakfast for His friends. Boys and Girls will learn that Jesus desires a friendship with them.



## Let's Learn to Help Others

### Let's Learn to Help Others

**Helping is Important:** The children will learn that James and John's mother wanted them to be important, so she asked Jesus to let her sons sit by Him in Heaven. The children will begin to understand that Jesus said that to be important, you must first help others.

**Ananias and Barnabas Help Saul:** The children will learn how Ananias and Barnabas helped Saul after he became a believer.