

Lesson 27

Acts through Revelation

Ages 4-5

Unit 5: The Promise of Guidance

(Preschool-Kindergarten)

Letter about Focus

Lesson Aim: To know we should focus on Jesus as explained in the letter to the Hebrews.

PROPHETS AND PROMISES PART 1

THE WORSHIP, THE WORD & THE WAY

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The Spirit Who Teaches Us

THE WORD

New Testament Letters: Hebrews 12:1-3

What He has done: God gave the Jewish people the teaching about focusing on Jesus.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Look to the Lord."

Unit 5 Memory Verse: Matthew 22:37

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

TEACHER ENRICHMENT For your own encouragement this week, read 2 Timothy 4:7-8.

Teacher Prayer: "Thank you Lord, for being the author and perfecter of our faith. Strengthen the children so they can run the race You have set before them. Amen."

TEACHER'S PREP

- ☐ Familiarize yourself with Hebrews 12:1-3.
- ☐ Read Teacher's Guide and At-A-Glance.
- ☐ Place today's New Testament letter in the Bible. Place the Bible in the Mail Box.

TEACHER TIP

Complete THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, THE WAY and Circle of Prayer. If time allows, choose a GOT TIME? activity or create your own activity to illustrate the Bible Story, the Aim or the Bible Memory Verse.

PRESET

THE WELCOME

- ☐ Mailbox: Stamp or sticker of Jesus (or a cross)

THE WORSHIP

- ☐ Bible Memory Verse Song: "Praise Time!" and related music
- ☐ Puppet Script or Storybook Lesson 27

THE WORD

- ☐ Special Delivery Mailbox containing Teacher's Bible with today's New Testament Letter

THE WAY

- ☐ Craft Supplies: Crayons or markers, sturdy paper, scissors, glue or tape, assorted craft supplies
- ☐ Game Supplies: Picture of Jesus or a cross, Bible, "Jesus Glasses" from Craft Connection, floor tape or chalk
- ☐ Snack: Donuts or any snack with a hole, drink, and a picture of Jesus
- ☐ Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 5, Lesson 27

GOT TIME?

- ☐ Game Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse song and player, or teacher may sing
- ☐ Color This Story: A Letter to the Hebrews about Jesus. Hebrews 12:1-3
- ☐ Story Time: Any story about focusing on Jesus.



1. THE WELCOME

(Pre-service until class begins)

"Look to the Lord."

SAY> (As each child enters classroom) **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the mailbox to find today's special delivery.** (Child unlocks Mail Box to receive a stamp or sticker of Jesus.) **Let this sticker of Jesus help you remember to think about what Jesus wants you to do and then to obey Him. Today's Whisper Verse is "Look to the Lord." Remember, Lord is a special name for Jesus.** (Teach Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below.) **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Look to the Lord."

(For visual demonstrations, see commtechlab.msu.edu/Sites/aslweb/browser.htm)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

"Look (to)" Extend the index and middle finger of the right hand to create a "V" shape. Gently tap the index finger of the "V" shape at the corner of the right eye and then move the "V" hand shape forward from the face.

"(the) Lord." Extend thumb and index finger of right hand to create an "L" shape. Bring "L" shape diagonal across chest from the left shoulder to the right hip as a royal sash.

SAY> (After all have arrived) **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** (Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.)

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**
(Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.)

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Look to the Lord." Psalm 105:4. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's New Testament letter.



2. THE WORSHIP: Praise Time!

(15 minutes)

Worship The Spirit Who Teaches Us

***Teacher Tip:** Play an opening song such as “Shake A Friend’s Hand” as children move to the place for praise songs, offering and puppet sketch. These activities help children identify time set aside for worship. Below are song suggestions to direct focus during Praise Time.

SAY> It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the Holy Spirit who teaches us. The Holy Spirit helps us look to Jesus. That means to think about what He wants you to do and then do it! When we look to Jesus, we follow Him and love Him with all our heart and all our soul and all our mind. That is our Bible Memory Verse. Let’s sing that verse now in our “Praise Time!” song. (Sing: “Praise Time.”)

SAY> One thing Jesus wants us to do is to give our offering. We can think about Him while we do that now. (Sing: “How Great is Our God” while collecting the offering.)

SAY> When we sing to the Lord and give our offering to Him, we are looking to the Lord. That is our Whisper Verse today. Let’s try it together. (Review Whisper Verse together: “Look to the Lord.” Include sign language.) We can always look to Jesus to know how to follow and obey Him. (Sing: “When We Walk With The Lord (Trust And Obey).”)

SAY> Delbert and Lello have been looking to the sky for their friend Posty. Let’s see what they are up to! (Read Chapter 27 from *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello: Prophets & Promises* or interact with puppets according to Prophets & Promises Lesson 27, Unit 5 Delbert & Lello puppet script.)

SAY> Jesus loves when we look to Him. He loves when we think about Him and obey Him. When do those things, we are looking to the Lord. We can rejoice and celebrate! (Sing: “Rejoice In The Lord Always.”)

Unit 5 2009 Praise Time song suggestions

“Praise Time!” Bible Memory Verse Song; www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

“Love One Another” Bible Memory Verse Song; www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

“We Love” Bible Memory Verse Song; www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

“The New Testament Overture” Bible Memory Verse Song; www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

“How Great Is Our God” My Best Friend; Little Praise Party by Catapult

“Jesus Loves The Little Children” Sunday School Songs; Songtime Kids

“I’ve Got The Joy/This Little Light Of Mine” ABC’s of Praise by Mary Rice Hopkins

“When We Walk With The Lord (Trust And Obey)” Walking With God, Kidzup Production Inc.

“Rejoice In The Lord Always” 120 Bible Songs; Twin Sisters

“Shake A Friend’s Hand” Psalty Kids Praise!



3. THE WORD

(10 minutes)

The Letter to the Hebrews says, "Keep your eyes on Jesus."

SAY> Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our **CLASSROOM PROMISE**.

CLASSROOM PROMISE

SAY TOGETHER> With my eyes on my teacher; (Point to eyes.)
My mouth quiet as can be, (Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.)
I will listen to hear, (Cup hand around ear.)
How God loves you and me. (Hug self, point to others and then self.)

SAY> In the Bible there are special letters written by believers to people like you and me. In last week's letter we learned we can pray to God when we are worried. In this week's letter we'll learn we should keep our eyes on Jesus. We should think about Him and obey what He wants us to do. Let's open the mailbox to read this week's letter from the Bible. (Choose a child to open the mailbox, take out the Bible and hand it to the leader or teacher.)



SPECIAL DELIVERY: HEBREWS 12:1-3

Open the Bible and remove today's New Testament Letter. Today's letter is available for download at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net or you can create our own by writing the words in the box below on a piece of paper and placing it in an envelope. Open the letter and read the quote from today's New Testament letter.

Dear brothers and sisters in the family of God,

Since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us run the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion. Think of all He has done for us; then you won't become weary and give up.

From,
A friend who believes

ASK> There are many people who have followed Jesus. They are like a crowd around us. What does this letter say about that crowd? (They are witnesses to the life of faith.) Let's find our answer in today's letter from the Bible. (Read answer from today's New Testament Letter.) Following Jesus is like running in a race. Imagine a crowd of all the people who love Jesus. Imagine that they are cheering for you as you follow Jesus.

SAY> Who should you keep your eyes on? (Jesus, the Lord.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Look to the Lord." (Include sign language or hand

motions.) **Remember, Lord is one of Jesus' special names. To keep your eyes on Jesus means to keep looking to the Lord and thinking about what He wants you to do.**



4. THE WAY

(20 minutes)

We keep our eyes on Jesus.

Invite the children to circle area or centers for THE WAY: New Testament Letter application. Craft and games can be presented at the same time in centers, or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.



CRAFT CONNECTION: JESUS GLASSES

"Keep your eyes on Jesus." Hebrews 12:2

Purpose: To remind the children they should focus on Jesus as instructed in the letter to the Hebrews.

☑ Supplies needed per child:

- ☐ Crayons or markers
- ☐ Sturdy paper
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue or tape
- ☐ Assorted craft supplies (buttons, sequins, craft jewels, ribbon, foam shapes, stickers, eyes, etc.)

☑ Prep Steps: (Prepared before class)

- ☐ Pre-print the outline of a scroll so that it takes up the entire sheet of sturdy paper.
- ☐ Pre-print on the top of the scroll outline:

A Letter to the Hebrews about Jesus.

Hebrews 12:1-3

- ☐ Pre-print on the side of the glasses:

Keep your eyes on Jesus.

Hebrews 12:2 (NLT)

- ☐ On scroll, pre-print a picture of Jesus that can be colored.
- ☐ Cut and bend sturdy paper in the shape of glasses. (See www.childrensministrywarehouse.net for a link to a free template.)

Directions for children:

1. Color the picture of Jesus.
2. Use assorted craft supplies to decorate the glasses.
3. Look through the glasses to focus on Jesus.

Options: Make an envelope: On a large envelope, write child's name as the address and "Paul" as the return address. Child can decorate the envelope before placing the letter inside.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who should you keep your eyes on? (Jesus.) That's like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** (Say Whisper Verse together with hand motions.)
- **Put on your glasses. Look at Jesus on your scroll. Keep your eyes on Jesus! That means to keep thinking about Jesus and what He wants you to do. Take your letter home and show it to your family. Ask them to help you make a special mailbox for your letters. Next time, we will make another letter for you to add to your mailbox.**

THE WAY continued...



GAME: RACE TO JESUS

"Look to the Lord."

Purpose: Children will learn to focus on Jesus instead of being distracted by what is around them.

☑ Supplies:

- ☐ Picture of Jesus or a cross
- ☐ "Jesus Glasses" from Craft Connection
- ☐ Floor tape

☑ Prep Steps: Display the picture of Jesus and the Bible on one side of the play area. Place floor tape or use chalk to mark a straight path from the picture of Jesus to the opposite side of the play area.

SAY> Look to Jesus! Jesus will help you know how to follow Him every day.

Directions:

1. Choose two children to go first as the first "runners" and stand on the opposite side of the play area from the picture of Jesus.
2. As the "witnesses," the remaining children stand on either side of the line to cheer for the two runners.
3. The two "runners" put on their Jesus Glasses.
4. **SAY>** (To the "runners") **Run through the crowd of witnesses. As you run, keep your eyes looking at the picture of Jesus.**
5. Two children run through the witnesses to the picture of Jesus. Encourage the other children to clap and cheer for the two running children.
6. Play again. Each time you play, choose two different children to be the "runners."



GAME: EYES ON JESUS

"Look to the Lord."

Purpose: Children will realize they can keep their eyes on Jesus by listening to and obeying His Word.

☑ Supplies:

- ☐ "Jesus Glasses" from Craft Connection
- ☐ Bible

ASK> Who should you look to? (Jesus, the Lord.) To look to the Lord or to keep your eyes on Jesus means to keep thinking about Jesus and what He wants you to do. He wants us to obey His Word in the Bible. When you obey Jesus, it shows that you are keeping your eyes on Him! In this game, we will put our Jesus glasses on when we hear something Jesus WOULD want us to do. Be sure to take our Jesus glasses off if you hear something that Jesus WOULD NOT want us to do.

Directions:

1. Stand or sit where the children can see you. Hold the Bible open in front of you.
2. Read each statement. After each statement, children put on their "Jesus Glasses" and say and sign Whisper Verse if it is something Jesus wants them to do. Children take off their "Jesus Glasses" if it is something Jesus would not want them to do.
 - "Love God with all your heart." (Put "Jesus Glasses" on; say Whisper Verse.)
 - "Love yourself with all your heart." (Take "Jesus Glasses" off.)
 - "Love God with all your soul." (Put "Jesus Glasses" on; say Whisper Verse.)
 - "Love your toys more than God." (Take "Jesus Glasses" off.)
 - "Love your neighbor." (Put "Jesus Glasses" on; say Whisper Verse.)
 - "Don't share your favorite things with others." (Take Jesus Glasses off.)

- "Help people who are in need. (Put "Jesus Glasses" on; say Whisper Verse.)

THE WAY continued...



SNACK: FOCUS FOOD

"Look to the Lord."

Purpose: Children will realize they can focus on Jesus to know how to live every day.

Snack Suggestion: Donuts or any snack with a hole, drink, and picture of Jesus

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **SAY**> Let's sing the "Blessing Song." (Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.)

**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank you for our blessings. Thank you for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** (Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "Look to the Lord.")
 - **To look to the Lord or to keep your eyes on Jesus means to keep thinking about the Lord and what He wants you to do.**
 - (Hold up the picture of Jesus.) **Look through the hole in your snack. Whose picture do you see?** (Jesus.)
 - **Can you listen to the Bible?** (Yes!)
 - **Can you do what Jesus tells you to do in the Bible?** (Yes!)
 - **That is how we can keep our eyes on Jesus. We can follow Him every day!**



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

SAY> God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

PRAY> Dear God, thank you for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____, (gently touch each child's shoulder while saying his or her name.) We pray for our families and friends. Thank you for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



FINAL FIVE MINUTES

When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

COMPLETED CRAFT

Take home your "Jesus Glasses" craft. Put it in your mailbox! Tell someone that you will "Look to the Lord."

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

(Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available.) **Show this card to your family. Talk about how you can keep your eyes on Jesus by thinking of Him and obeying Him every day.**

SING

Sing Bible Memory Verse Song: "Praise Time!" or other Praise Time! songs.

PLAY

Visit, play and review lesson until it is time to dismiss.



5. GOT TIME?

If time remains, choose from these activities which connect to the lesson.



GAME: LETTER GAMES

Purpose: Children play games using today's New Testament Letter.

☑ Supplies:

[] Today's New Testament Letter in an envelope.

Game #1 Directions:

1. While other children close their eyes, assist a child in hiding today's Special Delivery New Testament letter enclosed in an envelope somewhere in the play area.
2. Allow children to search for the letter.
3. The child that finds the letter opens the envelope and hands the letter to the teacher.
4. Teacher reads today's letter to the children and puts it back in the envelope.
5. Choose a different child to hide the letter and play again.

Game #2 Directions: (Variation on Duck, Duck, Goose)

1. **SAY> To practice delivering special letters, let's play "No Mail, No Mail, Mail!"**
2. Have the children sit on the floor in a circle.
3. Pick a child to be the Mail Deliverer.
4. The Mail Deliverer walks around the outside of the circle, gently tapping each child once on the shoulder with the letter while repeating "**No Mail**" with each tap.
5. When the Mail Deliverer says "**Mail!**" and drops the letter in a child's lap, that child grabs the letter, jumps up and runs around the circle chasing the Mail Deliverer.
6. If the Mail Deliverer runs all the way around the circle and sits in the circle where the child with the letter was sitting, then the child with the letter takes a turn as the Mail Deliverer.
7. If the child with the letter tags the Mail Deliverer, then that child returns to his or her place in the circle and the Mail Deliverer tries again to deliver the letter without being tagged.
8. Repeat until all have enjoyed a turn as the Mail Deliverer.

***Teacher Tip:** To create a fun atmosphere, play the Bible Memory Verse Song "Praise Time" or "The New Testament Overture." during the game.

SAY> Imagine how excited the people were to get a letter from one of the disciples. Isn't it exciting to know that same letter is right here for us in the Bible?

Got Time? continued...



GAME: COLLECT THE LETTERS

Purpose: To familiarize children with the concept that the New Testament contains stories about Jesus and many letters from those who believe in Him.

☑ Supplies:

☐ "New Testament Overture" song and player (or teacher may sing), 27 sheets of paper, Bible

☑ Prep Steps:

☐ Fold each sheet of paper in half to look like a letter.

☐ Scatter the letters around the play area.

☐ Optional: Substitute 27 sealed envelopes for the 27 sheets of paper.

SAY> (Hold up the Bible.) **God gave us the Bible. The first part of the Bible is filled with true stories about God and His people. The second part of the Bible is filled with true stories about Jesus and letters from some of His followers. Let's see if we can pick up all the Bible letters before the music stops!**

Directions:

1. Place the Bible on a table or chair in the center of the play area.
2. Play "The New Testament Overture" or teacher may sing.
3. Children collect the letters as fast as they can and stack them on top of the Bible.
4. After letters are stacked, children hold hands and form a circle around the Bible; then skip together in a circle until the end of the song.



GAME: LOTS OF LOVE TANGO

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."
Matthew 22:37

Purpose: To help children learn the meaning of the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

☑ Supplies:

☐ Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song and player (or teacher may sing)

ASK> **Do you love God?** (Respond.) **God wants you to love Him with every part of your body—from the top of head to the tips of your toes! Look at everyone around you. They are your neighbors! Wave to your neighbors! God wants you to love everyone around you, too!**

Directions:

1. Help children find partners. Partners stand together.
2. Play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song and do the following motions along with the lyrics to the song:
 - "You shall love the Lord your God,"** (Point up to God in Heaven.)
 - "With all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."**
(Pat sides of body from top of head down to toes.)
 - "Love your neighbor as yourself—the best commandments you'll find!"**
(Hug partner.)
 - "Praise Time" chorus.** (Hop, clap, or dance to the rhythm of the music.)

Got Time? continued...



GAME: HEART HOP

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Matthew 22:37

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

☑ Supplies:

☐ Two red paper heart shapes per child, floor tape

☑ Prep Steps:

☐ Tape the paper heart shapes in a large circle on the floor.

Directions:

1. Children stand on every other heart.
2. Say the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse. Have children repeat each word after you.
3. Say the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse again. This time, children turn to their right and hop from one heart to the next heart on each word.



FAMILIAR FAVORITES

COLOR THIS STORY

Coloring sheet: A Letter to the Hebrews about Jesus. Hebrews 12:1-3

Discuss Bible Story and play Bible Memory Verse Song as children color.

STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about thinking about Jesus and what He wants us to do.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Review take-home Bible Study card.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 5, Lesson 27: A Letter About Focus

PONDER! Read Hebrews 12:1-3 with your family. This letter was written to the Hebrew people. The message in the letter is for us, too. Who should you keep your eyes on? What does it mean to keep our eyes on Jesus?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank you for this letter that tells us how to keep our eyes on You. Help us to do that by thinking of You and obeying You every day. Amen."

PLAY! Decorate a box to be your mailbox for your Letters from the Bible. Put today's craft inside your mailbox. During the week, take out your letter craft to remind your family about what we can learn from the letters in the Bible.

Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse: Matthew 22:37

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."