



# A Letter About Weakness

**Lesson Aim:** To know we are weak, but God is strong.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** The Spirit Who Shows Us

## THE WORD

**New Testament Letters:** 1 Corinthians 2:1-3, 5

**What He Has Done:** God revealed to Paul that He shows His power through our weakness.

## THE WAY

**Whisper Verse:** "God is mighty."

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Behold, I am coming soon." Revelation 22:12

Unit 6: The Promise of Heaven			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
28	A Letter About Weakness, 1 Corinthians 2:1-3, 5	God revealed to Paul that He shows His power through our weakness.	To know we are weak, but God is strong.
29	A Letter About Strength, Ephesians 6:10, 13, 15-18	God showed Paul how He strengthens us.	To learn about the armor of God that helps us to be strong in the Lord.
30	A Letter About Jesus' Return, Revelation 1:1-2, 7; 22:12	God revealed to John that Jesus is coming back.	To know Jesus is coming back.
31	A Letter About Heaven, Revelation 21:1-4, 18-19, 21, 23	Jesus showed John a vision of what heaven looks like.	To know what heaven will be like.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Romans 8:22-27. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for Your Holy Spirit who shows Your power through our weakness. Help the children recognize Your power through their own weaknesses. Amen."

**Teacher Tips:** Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6) feature letters of the New Testament. Replace the Treasure Chest with a mailbox to hold THE WELCOME stamp or sticker. In THE WORD, since the letters are not Bible stories, create interest and encourage involvement by placing the symbol and the envelope with the printed letter in a mailbag or tote bag known as the "Special Delivery Mailbag."



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Mailbox</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a heavy weight or barbell
		<b>Whisper Verse</b>	Sign language for "God is mighty."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	<b>Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "He Is Mighty to Save" "I Can Do Everything" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Not by Might" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The New Testament Overture" (Ages 6-12 BMVS) "We Love" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Jesus Loves Me"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 6, Lesson 28
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Special Delivery:</b> 1 Corinthians 2:1-3, 5	Visuals: New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), Bible, mailbag or tote bag, small barbell or weight
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Mighty God Fan	Sturdy white paper, paper plate, large craft stick, cotton balls, glue or glue sticks, crayons or markers
		<b>Game:</b> A Mighty Relay	Inflated non-helium balloons, "Mighty God Fan" crafts
		<b>Game:</b> Caring for Baby	Baby doll, baby care supplies (blanket, bottle, toy baby food, spoon, etc.)
		<b>Snack:</b> Mighty Bites	Pretzel sticks, marshmallows
		<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 6, Lesson 28 Color This Story: "A Letter to the Corinthians About Weakness"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> More Letter Games	Today's New Testament Letter in an envelope, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" or "The New Testament Overture"
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Bible Books Dance	"The New Testament Overture" song
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Down From Heaven	Sturdy box or step (no more than one foot in height)
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Through The Clouds	White balloons or soft toy balls, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon"
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about human weakness and God's power

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



## God is mighty **THE WELCOME**

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_. I'm glad you are here! Come open the mailbox to find today's special delivery.** Child unlocks the mailbox to receive a stamp or sticker of a heavy weight or barbell. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a heavy weight help you remember we are weak, but God is strong. Today's Whisper Verse is "God is mighty."** Teach the 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: "God is mighty."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

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

<b>"God"</b>	The right hand begins in front of the face, then is lowered and slightly raised in front of the face with palm facing left and all five fingers together.
<b>"(is) mighty."</b>	Create fists with both hands. Firmly pull both fists away from the chest in a manner to show a person is strong.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has 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:** "God is mighty," Job 36:5a. 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 Bible story.



The Spirit who shows us

## THE WORSHIP

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.



**It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the Holy Spirit who shows us we are weak, but God is strong. Let's sing a song to help us remember that.** Sing: “Jesus Loves Me” or “I Can Do Everything.”

**Even though we are weak, Jesus is mighty. Let's say our Whisper Verse together and then we can sing it!** Review the Whisper Verse together: “God is mighty.” Include sign language. Sing: “He Is Mighty to Save.”

**One way we can thank God for being mighty is by giving our offering. Let's listen to our new Bible Memory Verse Song as we give our offering to Him.** Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, “Behold, I Am Coming Soon,” as the offering is collected.



**Let's see if Posty has a letter to deliver today!** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 6, Lesson 28.



**Today's letter from Paul says he did not have fancy words when he told others about Jesus. The Holy Spirit used Paul's words to show them who Jesus was and what He had done for them. Paul teaches us that it is not by our own might or power that we help point people to Jesus, it is by the Holy Spirit's power! Sing: “Not By Might.”**

**Even if you cannot read the Bible for yourself yet, you can tell Bible stories and show others Jesus loves them. The Holy Spirit will help you just as He helped Paul.**



God's power and our weakness

## THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our **Classroom Promise with the motions.**

**With my eyes on my teacher;**

**My mouth quiet as can be,**

**I will listen to hear,**

**How God loves you and me.**

Point to eyes.

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

Cup hand around ear.

Hug self, point to others, and then self.

In the Bible, there are special letters written by believers to people like you and me. Last time, we learned to keep our eyes on Jesus. In today's letter, we will learn we are weak, but God is strong.

### **SPECIAL DELIVERY: 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-3, 5**

**Prepare:** Today's New Testament letter is available at ResourceWell.org or you can create your own by writing the words in the box below on a piece of paper. Enclose the letter in an envelope and place it inside the teacher's Bible. Place the Bible and a small barbell or weight in a mailbag or tote bag (Special Delivery Mailbag).

**Let's open the Special Delivery Mailbag to find this week's letter.** Choose a child to open the mailbag, remove the Bible, and hand it to you.



**Dear brothers and sisters in the family of God,**

**When I came to you, I didn't come with fancy words or great wisdom. I preached to you the truth about God's love. I made up my mind to pay attention to only one thing while I was with you. That one thing was Jesus Christ. When I came to you, I was weak and afraid and trembling all over. As I preached, the Holy Spirit showed His power. That was so you would believe not in human wisdom but in God's power.**

**Love,  
Paul**

**When Paul visited his friends to tell them about Jesus, was he weak or strong? (Weak.) Let's find our answer in today's letter from the Bible.** Read the answer from today's New Testament Letter. **Who is mighty? (God.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "God is mighty."** Include the sign language or hand motions.

**Our symbol for this letter about God's power and our weakness is a heavy weight.** Invite a child to reach into the mailbag to find today's symbol (a small barbell or weight). **When we are weak, it's easy to see how strong God is!**

**PASS THE POWER:** Ask the question below and give the barbell to a child who has raised his or her hand. The child gives his or her answer and then gives the barbell to another child whose hand is raised.

- **What have you seen that shows you God's power?**



We are weak, but He is strong

## THE WAY

**Teacher Tip:** Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

### **CRAFT: MIGHTY GOD FAN**

**Purpose:** To remind the children that we are weak, but God is strong.

**Supplies:** Sturdy white paper, paper plate, large craft stick, cotton balls, glue or glue sticks, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** On sturdy white paper, trace a circle the size of the inside of the paper plate. Inside the circle, print or draw a picture of a sun and a mountain and print **“God is mighty.” 1 Corinthians 2:1-3, 5.** Cut out the circle.

#### **Directions:**

1. Color the picture of the sun and mountain.
2. Attach the picture to the front of the paper plate.
3. Stretch 3 cotton balls and attach them to the picture for clouds.
4. Attach a large craft stick to the back of the paper plate for a fan handle.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **If God is mighty enough to make a mountain, do you think He’s mighty enough to help you speak about Him?** (Children respond.)
- **What are some of the things that remind you that God is mighty?** (Children respond.)
- **Let’s say our Whisper Verse with the motions right now!** Together, say the Whisper Verse with the hand motions.

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: A MIGHTY RELAY**

**Purpose:** Children will consider God's might.

**Supplies:** Inflated non-helium balloons, "Mighty God Fan" crafts

On your "Mighty God Fan" there is a picture of a mountain and the sun. What else is on your fan? (Clouds.) **Clouds remind me of the wind. Have you ever been outside when it was very windy?** (Children respond.) **Who makes the wind?** (God.) **God is mighty enough to make the strong winds that blow, and He is mighty enough to help us speak to others about Him.**

### **Directions:**

1. Each child holds their "Mighty God Fan" craft.
2. Divide the children into two groups. Have children pair up within their teams.
3. Teams line up in their pairs at one end of the play area.
4. Stand at the other end of the play area.
5. Have a helper place a balloon on the floor in front of each team.
6. On your signal, the first pair on each team fans the balloon toward you.
7. When they are close enough to touch you, the pair says, **"God is mighty!"**
8. They then fan the balloon back to their team and sit down at the end of the team line.
9. The next pair in line repeats steps 6-8.
10. The first team to have everyone take a turn, wins. You may choose to continue playing until all players on both teams have had a turn.

## **GAME: CARING FOR BABY**

**Purpose:** Children think about how God is strong enough to care for them just as a parent cares for a helpless baby.

**Supplies:** Baby doll, baby care supplies (blanket, bottle, toy baby food, spoon, etc.)

Hold the doll in your arms. **Can babies do anything for themselves?** (No.) **Babies are very small and weak. Who has a little brother or sister?** (Children respond.) **Who helps take care of your brother or sister?** (Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, etc.) **Let's care for this doll like we would care for a real baby.**

### **Directions:**

1. Seat children on the floor in a circle.
2. Place the baby care supplies on the floor in the center of the circle.
3. Each child takes a turn holding the doll and choosing one way they are strong enough to care for the doll.

**You are much stronger than a baby, so you are able to help. God is much stronger than anyone or anything! He can take care of you, me, and the whole world because He is mighty! Let's say our Whisper Verse together.** Say the Whisper Verse with the hand motions.

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: MIGHTY BITES**

**Purpose:** Children will create mini barbell snacks to remind them God is mighty and strong.

**Snack Suggestion:** Pretzel sticks, marshmallows

Show the children how to make a barbell by pushing a marshmallow onto each end of a pretzel stick.

### **Directions:**

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
2. **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.
  - **These pretend barbells are not very heavy, so it is easy to lift and eat them!**  
Demonstrate curling the "barbell" up to your mouth and taking a bite.
  - **Sometimes, things feel like they are too heavy to lift or too hard to do. What is something that is hard for you to do?** (Children respond.)
  - **When we are weak, it is easy to see how strong God is. He made the earth and everything in it. He can do anything! Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "God is mighty."
  - **When you feel weak, remember God loves you and He is mighty!**



## **CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

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.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**COMPLETED CRAFT:** Take home your "Mighty God Fan" craft. Tell someone you are weak, but God is strong.

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how God is so strong that He can take care of you.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "A Letter to the Corinthians About Weakness." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Behold, I Am Coming Soon," as the children color.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## GOT TIME?

### **GAME: MORE LETTER GAMES**

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

**Supplies:** Today's New Testament Letter in an envelope, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon" or "The New Testament Overture"

**Directions:**

1. To create a fun atmosphere, play the Bible Memory Verse Song, or "The New Testament Overture" during the game.
2. Divide children into two groups.
3. Groups stand at opposite ends of the play area in a line.
4. Give the letter to the first child in one of the groups.
5. Before the child starts his or her delivery, call out the method by which he or she must deliver the letter. For example, he or she might hop, crawl, walk backwards, skip, dance, fly like an airplane, ride a motorcycle, or gallop like a horse.
6. On your signal, the child delivers the letter to the first child in the second group.
7. Call out a new method of delivery. The child with the letter then returns the letter to the next child in the first group.
8. Continue until each child has a turn delivering the letter.

**Imagine how excited the people were to get a letter from one of the disciples. Isn't it wonderful to know that same letter was delivered to us through the Bible?** (Children respond.)

### **GAME: BIBLE BOOKS DANCE**

**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:** "The New Testament Overture" song

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.**

**Directions:**

1. **Let's see if we can listen closely to hear the names of the New Testament books of the Bible in this song while we move and dance. When you hear the book of name a New Testament book in the song, sit down as fast as you can.**
2. Play "The New Testament Overture."
3. Children dance until they hear the name of the book you said.
4. Children sit.
5. Play as many times as you like, calling out a different book each time.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Behold, I am coming soon." Revelation 22:12

### **GAME: DOWN FROM HEAVEN**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize and review the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** A sturdy box or step (no more than one foot in height)

**Jesus said, "Behold, I am coming soon." He is coming back from heaven! Let's pretend to be like Jesus. Jump down from heaven while you say Jesus' words.**

**Directions:**

1. Place the box on the floor.
2. Have children line up behind the box.
3. One at a time, children jump off the box and say the Bible Memory Verse.
4. Play multiple times, having the children say the Bible Memory Verse different ways as they jump. (For example: shout, sing, whisper, etc.)

### **GAME: THROUGH THE CLOUDS**

**Purpose:** To help children learn the meaning of the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** White balloons or soft toy balls, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "Behold, I Am Coming Soon"

**Prepare:** Inflate balloons with air.

**Teacher Tip:** For large groups of children, divide into smaller groups and give each group a balloon.

**Where is Jesus?** (In heaven.) **One day, Jesus is coming back. He said, "Behold, I am coming soon." Let's pretend this balloon is a cloud. When you look up to the balloon, pretend you see Jesus coming back through the clouds.**

**Directions:**

1. Play or sing the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song.
2. Children bat the balloon in the air as they sing the song.
3. If the children are able to keep one balloon in the air without it hitting the floor, add a second balloon.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## 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 human weakness and God's power.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 6, Lesson 28: A Letter About Weakness

**PONDER!** Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-3, 5 with your family. Paul wrote this letter to his friends in Corinth. He visited Corinth to tell others about Jesus. How did Paul feel while he was there? Who did Paul trust to help him when he was weak and afraid?

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, help us when we are weak. Thank You for being so strong! Amen."

**PLAY!** What is an example of something that shows God's power? Without speaking, act out a picture of God's power. You can be the wind or the sun or anything that reminds you of God's power. Have your family or friends guess what you are pretending to be.

#### **Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse:**

"Behold, I am coming soon." Revelation 22:12