



# Letters About Weakness

**Lesson Aim: To know God's strength is shown in our weakness.**

## THE WORSHIP

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

## THE WORD

**New Testament Letters:** 2 Corinthians 4:6-7; 12:7-10

**What He Has Done:** God revealed to Paul that His power is made perfect in weakness.

**Key Verse:** 2 Corinthians 4:7

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** Isaiah 64:8

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

The Books of the New Testament

Unit 6: The Promise of Heaven			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Aim
28	Letters About Weakness, 2 Corinthians 4:6-7; 12:7-10	God revealed to Paul that His power is made perfect in weakness.	To know God's strength is shown in our weakness.
29	Letters About Strength, Ephesians 6:10-11, 14-18	God showed His apostles how He strengthens us.	To learn what it means to choose to wear the armor of God.
30	Letters to the Seven Churches, Revelation 3:14-16, 19-22	Jesus told John what to write to the seven churches.	To know Jesus cares about our ongoing relationship with Him. (Salvation Message)
31	Letters About Jesus' Return, Revelation 19:11-16; 21:1-4; 22:20	God gave John a vision of heaven and what it will be like when Jesus comes back to earth.	To know what will happen when Jesus returns.

## 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 Tip:** For Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6), place your Bible in a mailbag along with any supplies needed for THE WAY, as a visual reminder of the letters of the New Testament.



# THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	None
		<b>Game:</b> Pots of Treasure	Four pots (plastic flower pots or buckets), an equal amount of treasures in four colors (candy, buttons, craft gems, paper cut into jewel shapes, etc.)
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> "The New Testament Overture" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "To Him Who Sits on the Throne," "Not by Might" "At the Name of Jesus" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Here I Am to Worship" "Awesome God"
		<b>Worship Scripture Reading:</b> Romans 8:26	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 28 Mail Call script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>New Testament Letters:</b> 2 Corinthians 4:6-7, 12:7-10	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, mailbag containing teacher's Bible, old clay pot or jar containing a cross decorated with glitter, beads, shells, or craft gems
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Discuss the Word</b>	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, mailbag (contents listed above under THE WORD)
		<b>Christ Connection:</b> Isaiah 64:8	
		<b>Golden Bowl</b>	
	Final 5	<b>Final Five Minutes</b>	Treasure Treat—New Testament Postcards and clay pot stamps or stickers (available at ResourceWell.org), Daily Ways, basket, pencils, poster board, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The New Testament Overture"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Snack:</b> Pot Full of Treasure	Any favorite snack served from a clay pot
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Which One Is Stronger?	Large sheets of sturdy paper, markers
	Up to 15	<b>Craft:</b> Care Package—Treasure Pots	See craft for supply list.
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> New Testament Line	27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, "The New Testament Overture," Bible
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Next Book	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The New Testament Overture"
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Light My Path	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The New Testament Overture," flashlights
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Pass the Word!	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The New Testament Overture," Bible
	Up to 5	<b>New Testament Letters Review</b>	New Testament Letter themes printed on footprint-shaped paper

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



Getting started

## THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.

**Meet & Greet Question:** *Where do you keep your favorite treasure?*

### **GAME: POTS OF TREASURE**

**Purpose:** Children will begin to discover God is the treasure inside their lives.

**Supplies:** Four pots (plastic flower pots or buckets), an equal amount of treasures in four colors (candy, buttons, craft gems, paper cut into jewel shapes, etc.)

**Prepare:** Scatter equal amounts of treasure in each of the four colors around the play area.

**Teacher Tip:** Small groups can play with two teams.

#### **Directions:**

1. Place a treasure pot in each of four corners of the room.
2. Divide children into four teams.
3. Each team should gather near one of the treasure pots.
4. Assign each team a treasure color.
5. On your signal, children race to pick up all the treasure of their assigned color and deposit them in their team's treasure pot.

Rules: The treasure pots may not be moved during the game.

Children can only carry one piece of treasure at a time back to their team's pot.

6. The goal is to be the first team to collect all the team's treasure. Continue playing until all the teams are finished to determine which team is in second, third, and fourth place.

**Today, we will read what the New Testament letters say about our weakness and God's strength. Just like our pots are filled with treasures, God's strength is like a wonderful treasure inside us. Let's read our letters and find out how God's strength helps us when we are weak.**

**Limited Space?** Use one treasure pot, one set of treasure, and a timer. Time teams as they play one at a time. The team to complete the relay in the fastest time wins.



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 music as children move to the designated area.

**Today, we worship the Spirit who shows us we are weak and God is strong. We can praise Him as the mighty one who helps the weak. God help us in everything; he even helps us to pray when we don't know what to say.**



**One way we can thank God for helping us is to give our offering.** Sing: "Here I Am to Worship" while collecting the offering.



Read Romans 8:26.



Sing the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The New Testament Overture." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God's power.



Perform the Mail Call script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 6, Lesson 28.



Letters about weakness

## THE WORD

**Additional Supplies for THE WORD and THE WAY:** Place the teacher's Bible and an old clay pot or jar containing a cross decorated with glitter, beads, shells, or craft gems in a mailbag.

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."**

**Last time, we read letters about perseverance. That means to never give up. We learned that fixing our eyes on Jesus and focusing on Him encourages us to never give up. Today, we will read from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.** If a map is available, point to the ancient city of Corinth, Greece. **In this letter, Paul explains how God uses our weaknesses to show His power.** Open the mailbag and remove the teacher's Bible.



**If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: 2 Corinthians 4:6-7, 12:7-10.

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.** Paul taught his friends in Corinth about his own weakness. He calls it "a thorn in my flesh." This was not a real thorn, but some kind of weakness such as an ongoing illness, temptation or hardship in his life. Listen as I read what he told the Corinthians. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

**Earlier in that same letter, Paul explained why his weakness did not make him lose heart or to be discouraged. Check it out.** Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-7.



Seeing God's strength

## THE WAY

How many times did Paul ask God to take away the “thorn in his flesh”? (Three times.) This “thorn” showed Paul had a weakness. Did God answer Paul’s prayer by taking his weakness away? (No.) Just like Paul, you may have something that is always a struggle for you. It might be part of your body that is weakened from sickness or injury. Maybe there is an ongoing temptation or something that makes your life difficult. If so, have you ever asked God to heal you or take this struggle away? (Children respond.) Has God answered your prayer in the way you hoped? (Children respond.) Sometimes, God’s answer to a prayer comes right away. Sometimes, His answer comes along the way. And sometimes, God will not answer our prayers until we get to heaven, where all our weaknesses will be gone forever!

Paul was not discouraged about his unanswered prayer, because he knew that when we are weak, it is easier for others to see only God is the one with power. God is so powerful that He even uses our weaknesses in building His kingdom.

Paul said God put His light into our hearts as a treasure. This light points us and others to Jesus. It shines even brighter when others see God do mighty things through us, even though we are weak. Remove the clay pot or jar containing the decorated cross from the mailbag. God’s light is like this beautiful cross and our hearts are like this breakable clay pot. If we were perfectly strong like a fancy treasure chest with a lock, others might only notice the treasure chest and the lock. But, when an old clay pot holds an amazing treasure like this cross, what do you notice most of all? (Children respond.) In the same way, others will notice God’s power even more in our weakness.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Over 700 years before Paul compared each believer to a jar of clay with God’s treasure inside, Isaiah explained who made us that way.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Isaiah 64:8. Let’s find this scripture. Read Isaiah 64:8.

A potter is an artist who molds and shapes clay into jars or pots. God has given each of you many different strengths and some weaknesses, too. No matter what your weaknesses are, the treasure in your heart is God’s perfect light that points you and others to Jesus. Let others see that light and know that Jesus is the powerful one, not us!

# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## GOLDEN BOWL

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

**Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.**

**Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. Read names in Golden Bowl.**

**Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## FINAL FIVE MINUTES

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is a New Testament Postcard with a stamp (or sticker) of a clay pot to remind you that even though we are weak, if we believe in Jesus, we have God's light inside us. Place the stamp or sticker in the corner box on the back of the postcard. **On your postcard, list where to find today's New Testament letters in the Bible.** The scriptures are listed in the Daily Way. **Read the scriptures again to help you answer the postcard question.**

**DAILY WAY CHALLENGE:** Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 28 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

**Teacher Tip:** Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw your favorite thing about today and something special about the letters from the New Testament you just learned.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write their prayer requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "New Testament Overture," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## **GOT TIME?**

### **SNACK: POT FULL OF TREASURE**

**Purpose:** Children will eat a snack while discussing their treasures.

**Snack Suggestion:** Any favorite snack served from a clay pot

**Today, we are learning that even though we are weak, God is strong. He is the source of strength inside all who believe in Him. Just like this clay pot has a special treasure inside for you to share and eat; God has put a special light inside our hearts so we can share the good news about Jesus with others.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Serve the snacks and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **“What is your favorite treasure?”**

### **GAME: WHICH ONE IS STRONGER?**

**Purpose:** To determine the stronger animal while discussing God’s strength in our weakness.

**Supplies:** Large sheets of sturdy paper, markers

#### **Directions:**

1. Choose a few children to be the judges.
2. Divide the remaining children into two teams.
3. Give a stack of paper and a marker to each team.
4. Each team member may have a turn as the team’s writer or artist.
5. On your signal, each team secretly chooses a strong animal. The team’s writer or artist writes the name or draws a picture of that animal on the paper.
6. When both teams are finished, they show their papers to the judges.
7. The judges decide which animal is stronger. The team with the stronger animal gets a point.
8. Display the animal names and pictures where all can see so teams remember which animals have already been chosen.
9. Teams choose a new artist or writer and play again as time allows. Teams may not use an animal that was previously chosen by either team.

**Sometimes, we feel very strong like when we help a younger sibling or win a team game. Sometimes, we feel weak when things are hard to understand or difficult to do. It’s the same way when we talk to people about God or follow Him. Sometimes, it may be easy to share the good news about Jesus or to follow God, but other times we may not be sure about what to say or how to obey. The good news is that God has all the strength we will ever need and more! When you are weak, God is strong. What is something God can do that you cannot? (Children respond.) When you feel weak, you can pray and ask God to show you His strength and power.**



# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: CARE PACKAGE—TREASURE POTS**

**Purpose:** Children create a gift to give as encouragement to those who are physically weak.

**Supplies:** Clay, small candles (stick, votive or tea light), shiny craft supplies (craft jewels, buttons, sequins, glitter, etc.), ribbon, colored paper, paperclips, scissors, glue, crayons or markers

**Prepare:** Choose a person or group of people who will receive the care package such as people in a hospital or elder care facility. Where children can see to copy, write: **God's light shines in you!** On a piece of paper, write the words to the letter below for children to copy.

Dear Friend,

**"For God...made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."**

**2 Corinthians 4:6-7**

Your Friend,

Child signs his or her first name

**Teacher Tips:** If you have a large class, divide the children into teams and create multiple care packages for different recipients. Have each team talk about why they chose that particular recipient. If possible, take children with you to deliver the care package or take a picture to share with the children.

**Today, we learned what the New Testament letters say about weakness. What can we do when we are weak?** (Pray to God for strength. Remember His light shines in us.) **Let's encourage others who may feel weak and remind them that God is their strength by making them care packages. These candles in clay pots will help those who receive our gifts to know God is their strength when they are weak.** Tell the children about the care package recipient(s). Allow them to ask questions so they truly understand where and to whom their gift will be delivered.

### **Directions:**

1. Form a pot shape out of a handful of clay.
2. Carve the sentence **"God's light shines in you!"** into the pot using the tip of a paperclip.
3. Decorate the candle with shiny craft supplies and ribbon.
4. Press the candle into the bottom of the pot to secure it.
5. Make a card to go with your candle. Fold a colored sheet of paper in half and copy the Bible verse onto the inside of the card. Be sure to sign your name!
6. Allow the pots to dry and harden.
7. Deliver the gifts!

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

### **"The New Testament Overture"**

Psalm 119:105 (KJV) and the books of the New Testament sung to the tune of "The William Tell Overture" by Gioachino Rossini. Sheet music and recordings available at ResourceWell.org.

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path! (2x.)**

**Go to Matthew, to Mark, go to Luke and John. Go to Acts and the letter to the Romans.**

**Go to First, go to Second Corinthians, to Galatians and Ephesians!**

**Philippians and Colossians, First and Second Thessalonians,**

**First and Second Timothy, then Titus and Philemon!**

**Go to Hebrews and go to James. Go to First, go to Second Peter.**

**Go to First, Second, Third John. Go to Jude, then go to Revelation!**

## **GAME: NEW TESTAMENT LINE**

**Purpose:** Children learn the books of the New Testament.

**Supplies:** 27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, "The New Testament Overture", Bible

**Prepare:** Write the name of each New Testament book on a separate sheet of paper. Shuffle the papers. Hang the clothesline in the play area at a low height so children can reach it.

### **Directions:**

1. Play "The New Testament Overture" two times. Encourage the children to sing along as they become familiar with the words.
2. Challenge the children to place the New Testament books in order by hanging the sheets of paper in correct order on the clothesline with clothespins.
3. To help the children, play the song while they work or leave a Bible open to the table of contents for them to reference, as needed.
4. After all the books are hung in the correct order, challenge children to recite the books of the New Testament from memory.

## **GAME: NEXT BOOK**

**Purpose:** Children learn the New Testament books in order.

**Supplies:** Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The New Testament Overture,"

**The Bible is made up of 66 different books. The New Testament has 27 books. Let's learn the books of the New Testament to help us find scripture verses quickly. How fast can you learn all the New Testament books in order?**

### **Directions:**

1. Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse one time. Have children sing along as they learn the words.
2. Play the song again. This time stop the song during the list of the books of the New Testament.
3. Children call out the name of the book that comes next. Refer to the poster, if necessary.
4. Play again, as time permits. As children learn the books, challenge them by taking away the poster and choosing one child to respond each time you stop the song.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: LIGHT MY PATH**

**Purpose:** Children learn the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The New Testament Overture," flashlights

### **Directions:**

1. Children choose partners.
2. Give each pair a flashlight. (Pairs may take turns if there are a limited number of flashlights.)
3. As the Bible Memory Verse Song plays, one partner moves the flashlight beam across the floor as the other partner walks the path highlighted by the beam. Make sure the partner moves the beam slowly enough so the other child can walk in it.

**How did you know where your partner wanted you to go?** (By following the lighted path.)

**Psalms 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." When we read God's Word, it's like He is shining a light for us to see how to follow the right path—His path. The Bible helps us know God and how to follow Him.**

## **GAME: PASS THE WORD!**

**Purpose:** Children learn the New Testament books in order.

**Supplies:** Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The New Testament Overture," Bible

**Teacher Tip:** For an added challenge and to protect the Bible during this game, use a hard cover Bible and tie it closed with a sturdy ribbon or enclose the Bible in a zipped cover or large zip top bag. If you have a large class, divide them into two circles or pass two Bibles around the circle.

### **Directions:**

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song as the children quickly pass the Bible around the circle.
3. Stop the song at some point during the list of the books of the New Testament.
4. When the song stops, the child holding the Bible opens it and finds the last New Testament book sung in the song.
5. Play again, as time permits. Encourage children to cheer for each other.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part One studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Acts through Revelation. Lessons 22-31 explore several of the themes of the New Testament letters. The previous lesson will always be reviewed briefly in THE WORD segment of each Teacher's Guide. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

**New Testament Letters: Letters about Peace (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.)** What does it mean to have the peace of God in your heart and mind? (Children respond.) Peace is a calmness of heart and mind that comes from trusting God, even when facing very hard times. What does Paul tell us to do instead of thinking about our worries? Read the answer in Philippians 4:8.

**New Testament Letters: Letters about Perseverance (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.)** The Bible says that life following Jesus is like a running a race toward our prize in heaven. What helps us persevere (never give up) in following Jesus? (Fixing our eyes on Him.) What does it mean to fix our eyes on Jesus? (It is to do things His way, love Him and everyone He has made.)

**New Testament Letters: Letters about Weakness (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.)** When God does amazing things through us even though we have weaknesses, others can see how great He is. His light shines through us especially in our weaknesses. How would you explain that in your own words? (Children respond.)

How to create a display for reviewing the New Testament Letters:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper or use small envelopes.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the scrolls.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

New Testament Letters: Letters about Love > Letters about Unity > Letters about Forgiveness of Sin > Letters about Forgiving Others > Letters about Peace > Letters about Perseverance > Letters about Weakness > Letters about Strength > Letters to the Seven Churches > Letters about Jesus' Return