

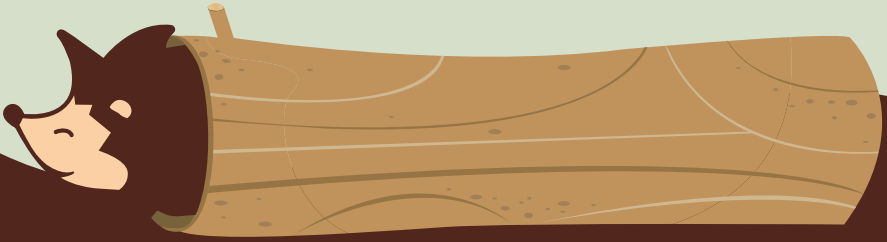
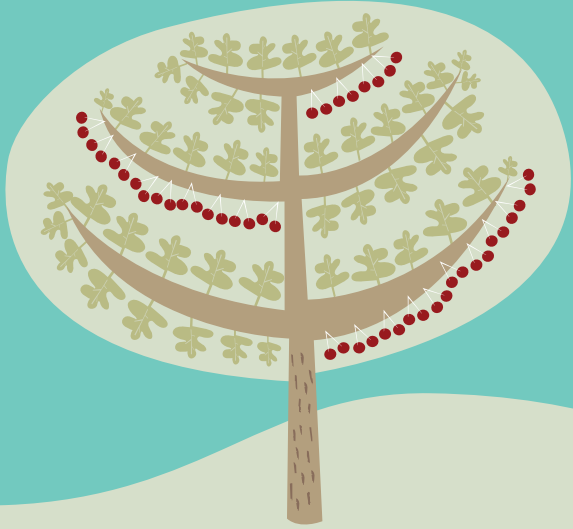
# Tru Curriculum

## 3-YEAR OLD CHILDREN





.....  
**HOW IT WORKS**  
.....



# TruBlessings Edition



**TruBlessings** is designed for three-year-old children based on three foundational truths: **God made me, God loves me, and God is with me.**

## FEATURES OF THE ONE-YEAR SCOPE & SEQUENCE

- **Repetition**—Each part of The Big God Story will be repeated two weeks in a row in the Scope & Sequence but will utilize different storytelling techniques and activities.
- **Interaction**—Children will use their senses to explore God's Word through a variety of visual, auditory, and other sensory activities.
- **Chronological**—Follows the sequence of The Big God Story meta-narrative.
- **Remember & Celebrate**—On the 13th week of every quarter (once per quarter), there will be a weekend to remember one of the three foundational truths and celebrate who God is.
- **Worship**—Kids will worship through music provided with TruBlessings and will be encouraged in the home as well.

## TRU PHILOSOPHY

The Holy Spirit is God's chosen teacher. He is the One who makes spiritual growth and formation happen when and as He chooses. Our role, as ministry leaders, volunteers, and parents, is to create space for the Holy Spirit to meet with our children. *ve it away."*

## TRU MISSION STATEMENT

Tru helps leaders, children, and their families connect to God, find their place in His Big God Story, and respond to Him through the power of the Holy Spirit. Every Tru lesson, resource, and product is created for this purpose.

## LESSON PATH

### Seeing the Mission Statement in a Tru Lesson

**CONNECT:** Children develop relationships with their leaders and one another through simple activities and conversation starters.

**GATHER:** Children experience and learn more about God through traditions, song, and storytelling from The Big God Story.

**RESPOND:** Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through worship, creative activities, and games.

**BLESS:** Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

The Big God Story is written for a three-year-old audience and can be told in its entirety, but may need to be shortened if the class is on the younger side.

## LEADER PREP

### The Vision for Inspire, Equip, and Support

Each week you'll find Inspire, Equip, and Support articles that will help you and your leaders personally and/or corporately engage with God and His Word and take time for yourselves before beginning your prep.

- The **Inspire** article contains personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives.
- The **Equip** article offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage.
- The **Support** article provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word.

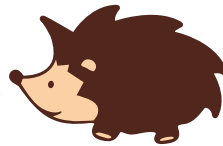
## ADDITIONAL TRUBLESSINGS RESOURCES (see Resources)

- TruBlessings Scope and Sequence
- The Big God Story People Cutouts
- The Big God Story Timeline Grid
- The Big God Story Timeline with People
- Hamilton the Hedghog Image
- Hamilton's Log
- God's Salvation Plan for Kids

## LESSON SCHEDULE

This sample outline offers flexibility for the timing of your service. The attention span and interest level of young children can change based on a variety of factors. You may find yourself allowing more time for one section of the lesson, and moving quickly through another depending upon the mood and dynamic of your class on any particular day.

Experience/Lesson Section	Minutes
CONNECT	15 min.
GATHER	25 min.
RESPOND	15 min.
BLESS	5 min.



## LESSON LANGUAGE

These are descriptions of the terms found in TruBlessings lessons:

**Tip, Note, Suggestion, and Helpful Hint:** Suggestions for programming and classroom management.

At the beginning of each TruBlessings lesson you will find a short summary of the portion of The Big God Story children will be exploring within the lesson.

**Optional:** Suggestions of ways you can adapt the activities and games to best fit your own church and group of children.

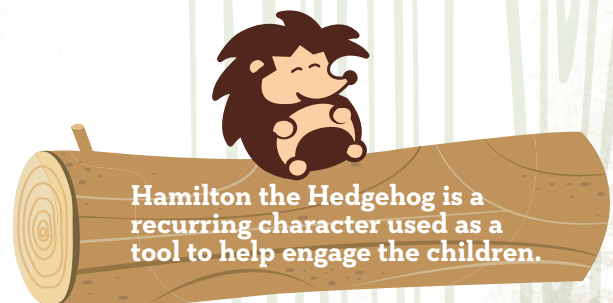
**ROLES** (Note: These roles may be combined and shared between two people.)

**Host:** The Host offers the same spirit of hospitality, generosity, and inclusiveness to the children that the host of a party would offer to the guests in her home or gathering. They may set up the time, frame the expectations, and dismiss children.

**Small Group Leader:** The Small Group Leader shepherds the children through questions about the story and biblical truth, engages them in community-building activities, helps them create a remembrance of their experience, and blesses them before they leave. Ideally Small Group Leaders work week after week with the same group of kids, giving them the opportunity to develop lasting relationships with each child.

**Worship Leader:** The Worship Leader facilitates individual and corporate worship by listening to the direction of the Holy Spirit and inviting others into the worship experience.

**Storyteller:** After active involvement with the Scriptures and the lesson, the Storyteller recounts the Bible passage for the kids in an engaging way. He leads out of an overflow of his own life, telling personal stories as prompted, and guiding the children into a time of natural worship response.



Hamilton the Hedgehog is a recurring character used as a tool to help engage the children.



## Hamilton's Box of Fun

This is a recurring activity that can be used each week. Some options have been provided to help you create your own "box of fun." Each quarter the suggested supplies will be refreshed. Be sure to check the Resources each week for updated Coloring sheets.

Hamilton's Box of Fun will encourage kids to interact with one another as they practice sharing toys and using their imaginations with the different items inside the box. You may choose to use this at the beginning or end of the service, as time permits.

Invite your children to the circle time area and sing together:

**Hamilton's Box** (sung to the tune of "Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?")

*Where, oh where is Hamilton's Box?*

*Oh where, oh where can it be?*

*It's full of fun toys that we sure like a lot!*

*Oh where, oh where can it be?*

When the song ends, encourage the children to work together to find Hamilton's Box of Fun. Consider hiding the box in a new location each week to pique the children's curiosity and excitement.

## PARENT RESOURCES

### The Vision for At Home Weekly

Provided as a parent resource with each week's lesson, At Home Weekly is designed to help your parents intentionally spend time in God's Word with their children before they come to church. This way, parents will be the first to introduce their children to the Bible content they'll hear at church, preparing them for the upcoming lesson. By providing this resource, the church is supporting parents as they spiritually nurture their children. The At Home Weekly mirrors the lesson and provides parents with fun facts and ideas that will Inspire, Equip, and Support parents: weekly preteaching of The Big God Story, child-development tips for parents that align with spiritual formation, and a blessing to pray over their children. Children will come to church prepared to receive and learn more from God's Word.

At the end of your lesson, be sure to send out the At Home Weekly resource for the next week's lesson, so parents can intentionally create space for God to meet with their families. The At Home Weekly can be emailed to parents or printed and distributed.



# Spring Lesson 2

Bible Passage: Matthew 14:22–33; Mark 6:45–51  
(Walking on Water)

## God Is with Me

### LESSON OVERVIEW

#### CONNECT// 15 minutes



#### Option 1: Windy Skies

##### SUPPLIES

- Serving tray (large)
- Ice cube tray
- Cotton balls
- Tongs (2, available at [www.dollartree.com](http://www.dollartree.com) or [www.discountsschoolsupply.com](http://www.discountsschoolsupply.com))

#### Option 2: Boat Rubbings

##### SUPPLIES

- Boat template\*
- Scissors
- Pen
- Poster board (1–3 sheets)
- Construction paper (1 sheet per child)
- Crayons

#### GATHER// 25 minutes



#### Welcome:

##### SUPPLIES

- “TruBlessings Theme Song”\*
- Bible
- Story Spots
- Hamilton puppet
- Hamilton’s house
- Pool toy (suggestions: float, inner tube, pool noodle, etc.)

#### The Big God Story

##### SUPPLIES

- The Big God Story images #1–5\*
- Whiteboard or felt board
- Magnets or felt

- Glue
- Hamilton puppet
- Hamilton’s pool toy

#### RESPOND// 15 minutes



#### Song of Celebration

#### Option 1: Chalk Waves

##### SUPPLIES

- Construction paper (blue, 1 sheet per child)
- Chalk (white, 1 piece per child)
- Baking dish
- Water
- Table covering

#### Option 2: Walk on Water

##### SUPPLIES

- Table covering (blue)
- Piece of wood (2" × 4", can be found at a local hardware store)

#### Option 3: God Is with Me

##### SUPPLIES

- God Is with Me template\*
- Card stock (1 sheet per child)
- Finger paint
- Table covering
- Wet wipes

#### Hamilton’s Box of Fun

##### SUPPLIES

- “The Cleanup Song”\*
- Box or basket
- Toddler Movement Scarves (available at [www.discountsschoolsupply.com](http://www.discountsschoolsupply.com))

- Puppets
- Interlocking blocks
- Toy animals
- Magnifying glasses (available at [www.dollartree.com](http://www.dollartree.com))

#### BLESS// 5 minutes



##### SUPPLIES

- TruBlessings coloring sheet\*
- HomeFront Weekly: Lesson 3\*
- Bible

#### Further Resources

To help you plan and lead:

**Customizable copy of Lesson 2 2016–17 Scope and Sequence Small Group Enhancement TruBlessings How It Works document**

**HomeFront Weekly:** Lesson 2 The weekly for the next lesson—to be sent home for preteaching by parents—is found in **BLESS**.

\*see Resources

# Summer Lesson 1

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 16—17  
(David and the Giant)

## God Is Powerful

### LESSON OVERVIEW

**CONNECT//**  
15 minutes




#### Option 1: Rounding Up the Sheep

**SUPPLIES**

- Cotton ball
- Disposable straws (1 per child)
- Masking tape

#### Option 2: Big and Little

**SUPPLIES**

- Big and Little cards \*
- Containers (1 large, 1 small)
- Play dough 
- String
- Scissors
- Toys (1 large, 1 small, any type)
- Blocks (1 large, 1 small)

**GATHER//**  
25 minutes



#### Welcome

**SUPPLIES**

- "TruBlessings Theme Song" \*
- Bible
- Story Spots
- Hamilton puppet
- Hamilton's house
- Pouch with drawstrings (small)
- Stones (5, small)

#### The Big God Story

**SUPPLIES**

- The Big God Story Puppets template \*
- Card stock (white)
- Scissors
- Craft sticks (9, large)
- Glue or tape
- Rubber band
- Hamilton puppet
- Hamilton's pouch and stones
- Optional: laminator

**RESPOND//**  
15 minutes



#### Song of Celebration

##### Option 1: Puppet People

**SUPPLIES**

- David and Goliath Puppets template \*
- Card stock (white)
- Scissors
- Craft sticks (2 per child, large)
- Glue or tape
- Washable markers or crayons
- Permanent marker

##### Option 2: Where Is David?

**SUPPLIES**

- Puppets (from Option 1)


##### Option 3: Who Is Powerful?

**SUPPLIES**

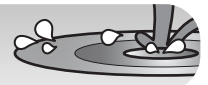
- Upbeat music

#### Hamilton's Box of Fun

**SUPPLIES**

- "The Cleanup Song" \*
- Box or basket
- Floor puzzle (large)
- Puzzles (5–6 pieces)
- Play dough 
- Lacing beads (large, wooden)
- Parachute (small) and foam balls

**BLESS//**  
5 minutes



**SUPPLIES**

- TruBlessings coloring sheet \*
- At Home Weekly: Lesson 2 \*
- Bible

#### Further Resources

To help you plan and lead:

**Customizable copy of Lesson 1  
2016–17 Scope and Sequence  
TruBlessings How It Works  
document**

**At Home Weekly: Lesson 1**

The weekly for the next lesson—to be sent home for preteaching by parents—is found in BLESS.

\*see Resources

## LEADER PREP

*Each week you'll find encouraging articles that help you prepare your heart to present the lesson.*

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### **Inspire** *Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

I remember going through a period of time when I couldn't seem to find joy. So I decided to talk with my dad about it. He listened for a while, and when I was done speaking, he asked me if I'd ever really experienced the joy of God's Holy Spirit. I was slightly put off by his question. I knew I'd experienced the Holy Spirit many times, and I'd definitely been in the presence of the Lord. I wondered what he meant by this, so I asked God to show me.

A week or so later, I was at a worship service with a friend when I felt God's Spirit so intensely that I fell on my knees. The room seemed to fade, and the singing voices dimmed as I saw an image of a horizon. As I watched, I heard the word

"joy" and saw a light like the sun explode over the horizon. I stayed kneeling for a long time, praising God for the joy I felt.

In that moment, I sensed God's Spirit in ways I never had before. The joy of that moment continued even after the experience. If I started to feel sad or discouraged again, His Spirit would comfort me. God was victorious in my heart. The feeling of joy I found in experiencing God's Holy Spirit was so abundant that sadness or discouragement no longer had a place in my heart.

*Tori Funkhouser*  
ROCKHARBOR Church

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### **Equip** *Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

When the high priest, Samuel, grew old, the elders of Israel said, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have." But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king." (1 Samuel 8:5-7)

The people of God wanted to "be like all the other nations, with a king to lead [them] and to go out before [them] and fight [their] battles" (1 Samuel 8:20). God had set up a system of leadership in which He led His people through the priests, prophets, and judges who spoke on His behalf. But the people didn't want the system God had set up; they wanted the system man had created.

By asking for a king, the nation of Israel showed their refusal to be set apart for God's glory. They wanted a king so they could be like other nations. They also wanted a king to lead them into battle. This request is particularly disconcerting given that God had recently led them victoriously through battle after battle against their enemies. By asking for a king, the Israelites showed a disregard for the God who had led them, fought for them, taken care of them, chosen them, and loved them.

But these actions of God's people didn't disrupt His plan for them. And though the people chose Saul to be their king, God would eventually reject him. David was God's choice because he was a man who would model for the people of Israel what it meant to worship God and give Him the glory for all things. God would show His power by anointing a king of His choosing. God's choice for king would acknowledge that He was truly King of Israel.

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### **Support** *Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

In 1 Samuel 16:13, David's anointing was not an empty ceremony. Though King David wasn't able to sit on the throne until many years later, the Holy Spirit came upon him in power from that day on. The Spirit of God expanded David's courage and wisdom so much that even King Saul's servants had heard of him.

What would it look like to live your life empowered by God's Spirit in the way David was? Pray that God will anoint

you with His Spirit. Pray you'd know the assurance David had, that God was with him and that the victory was His.

Then pray for God's Spirit to fill the children in your ministry. Pray they experience confidence that God is able to fight the battles in their lives—bullies like Goliath or other fears that feel as big as a bear or lion. Pray that God would cover them with His power so they can know their lives are in His hands.





**Children develop relationships with their leaders and one another through simple activities and conversation starters.**

For additional CONNECT ideas, see the How It Works document in Resources.

## Option 1: Rounding Up the Sheep

Children “round up” their cotton ball sheep by blowing air through a straw.

### SUPPLIES

- Cotton ball
- Disposable straws (1 per child)
- Masking tape

### SET UP

Create a starting line and a finish line with the tape, one line at each end of the table.

### RELATE

Invite one child at a time to the table. **Shepherds take care of sheep. After the little sheep have finished eating all of the grass, it’s time for them to go home. So the shepherd gathers his sheep and leads them home.**

**Today, you get to be the shepherd and the cotton ball is your sheep.** Place the cotton ball on the starting line. **When**

**I count to three, you can use your straw to blow the little sheep home across this line** (point to the line at the end of the table). **Are you ready? One, two, three.** Encourage the child as he blows on his “sheep.” When he’s finished, be sure to give a new straw to the next child.

## Option 2: Big and Little

Children sort various items according to size.

### SUPPLIES

- Big and Little cards (see Resources)
- Containers (1 large, 1 small)
- Play dough 
- String
- Scissors
- Toys (1 large, 1 small, any type)
- Blocks (1 large, 1 small)

### PREPARE AHEAD

Print the Big and Little cards and cut them apart. Make one small ball and one large ball out of the play dough. Cut one small piece and one large piece of string.

### SET UP

Place the two containers on the table. Set the Big card in front of the container that will contain big items and the Little card in front of the container that will contain the little items. Mix up the following items on the table: play dough balls, strings, toys, and blocks.

### RELATE

Invite one child at a time to the table. **What do you see on the table?** Allow child to respond. **How are they different?** Invite child to answer. **Can you help me find the things that are big and the ones that are little? First, let’s look at the play dough. Which ball is big?** Encourage child to answer. **Let’s put the big one in this container.** Point to the container labeled “Big.” **Which one is little?** Allow child to respond. **Let’s put the little one in the little container.** Point

to the container labeled “Little.” Continue to sort the other items in the same way. When the child is finished sorting, remove the items from the containers and mix them up again before inviting the next child to join you.

Children move into a time where they can participate in discovering God’s Word through storytelling, worship, and interactive experiences.

Transition Song: “The Cleanup Song” (see Resources)

## Story Spots

“Story Spot” refers to an item used to mark the place where each child sits. Consider using carpet squares, small circle-shaped rugs, or large sturdy place mats. When children hear “The Cleanup Song,” cue them to choose a Story Spot, place it

in the gathering space, and sit down. At the close of your time together in The Big God Story, encourage children to return their Story Spots to their original location.

## GATHER//25 minutes



**Children experience and learn more about God through traditions, song, and storytelling from The Big God Story.**

## Welcome

### SUPPLIES

- “TruBlessings Theme Song” (see Resources)
- Bible
- Story Spots
- Hamilton puppet
- Hamilton’s house
- Pouch with drawstrings (small)
- Stones (5, small)

## Ponder Point: God Is Powerful

Hi, friends! I’m so excited to be here with you. Let’s all celebrate God by singing and dancing together! Play the “TruBlessings Theme Song” and lead kids in dance and celebration.

That was great! Now, everyone, let’s all sit down on our Story Spots—it’s time to hear a part of The Big God Story. Do you remember who else loves The Big God Story? Children will call out. That’s right! Hamilton the Hedgehog! Should we call him and ask him to join us? Children will answer. On the count of three, let’s call him together. Are you ready? One, two, three. Hamilton, where are you? Encourage kids to call for Hamilton. Hmmm ... Maybe he’s in the backyard climbing a big, tall tree. Let’s try again. Hamilton, where are you? Hamilton comes out holding a small pouch with the five small stones inside.

Hi, Hamilton! I’m so glad you’re here with us. Were you outside climbing a tree? Hamilton nods his head. Was

it big and tall? Hamilton nods. What do you have there, Hamilton? Hamilton holds up the pouch. Let’s look to see what’s inside. Invite one child to open the pouch and show everyone the five small stones. Do you think this might have something to do with The Big God Story today? Children respond. I think you’re right!

Are you ready to hear this part of The Big God Story? Hamilton nods excitedly. Me too! But before we get started, do you know where we can find The Big God Story? Hamilton nods his head and gestures to the Bible. That’s right—the Bible! God gave us the Bible so we can learn about Him. It’s full of things that help us get to know God. We read the Bible to learn about God and about His Son, Jesus. And I know you love to dig, dig, dig into God’s Word to find out what He has to say to us. Isn’t that right, Hamilton? Hamilton nods his head. Let’s all stand up and sing our Bible Song together.

**Bible Song** (sung to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”)

*Now it’s time to hear God’s Word  
Hear God’s Word  
Hear God’s Word  
Now it’s time to hear God’s Word  
So let’s look in the Bible*

As the song ends, have children return to their Story Spots. Hamilton can model this for children by sitting quietly as he listens to The Big God Story.

## The Big God Story

The Big God Story is written for a three-year-old audience. It can be told in its entirety or shortened if the class is on the younger side.

David and the Giant  
God Is Powerful  
1 Samuel 16–17

## SUPPLIES

- The Big God Story Puppets template (see Resources)
- Card stock (white)
- Scissors
- Craft sticks (9, large)
- Glue or tape
- Rubber band
- Hamilton puppet
- Hamilton's pouch and stones
- Optional: laminator

## PREPARE AHEAD

Print The Big God Story Puppets template onto card stock. Cut out the people and tape or glue them onto the craft sticks. Optional: If you'd like the puppets used in The Big God Story to be more durable, consider laminating them. This way, they won't bend or tear when Hamilton and the children handle them.

## SET UP

Have Hamilton wear the small pouch with stones inside.

## RELATE

**Before we start this part of The Big God Story, I'm going to ask Hamilton to help us. Hamilton, will you help me tell this part of the story today?** Hamilton nods. As you're talking, Hamilton extends his hand to you. Attach the young David puppet to his hand with a rubber band. **I need you to play the part of young David. Whenever I talk about David, you can move him up and down and from side to side.** Hamilton nods.

**I need more friends to help tell this part of The Big God Story.** Choose eight volunteers to help with The Big God Story. As you hand puppets to children, give them the same directions you gave to Hamilton. Take a moment and introduce the characters to the rest of the children. **Friends, are you ready?** Children respond. **Great! Let's all pray together and ask God to teach us.** Lead children in a Prayer of Release to pause, be still, and ask the Holy Spirit to quiet their hearts and minds.

**Many years ago, there was a big fight between Israel and some people called the Philistines. The Philistines were not nice people. They didn't love or obey God, and they wanted to hurt the people of Israel.**

**The Philistines had a big, strong army. They also had the biggest, scariest soldier anyone had ever seen. His name was Goliath. Child holds up Goliath puppet. He was a giant man, and everyone was afraid to fight him. But we know something they didn't know. Who's bigger and more powerful than Goliath?** Allow children to respond. **That's right—God is. God is more powerful than anyone!**

**One day, a shepherd boy named David (Hamilton holds up David puppet and moves him around) left his home with food for his brothers. Do you remember what a shepherd does?** Allow responses. **Yes—as a shepherd, David took care of sheep. David had seven brothers who had gone to fight the Philistines.** Have each child holding a puppet for one of the seven sons of Jesse move puppets up and down.

**Friends, can you count David's brothers with me? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven. Seven brothers. While David was with his brothers, he heard Goliath say mean things about God's people. Goliath puppet hops up and down. Goliath was also saying mean things about God. That made David very angry. Can you show me an angry face?** Allow kids to respond; interact with their expressions. **Good job! David cared about God's people, and David loved God. He said, "I will fight Goliath!" Friends, was David very big?** Allow children to respond. **No, David wasn't. But guess what. David knew God is big and strong. God is powerful, and David knew God would be with him.**

**David got ready to fight Goliath. He filled a pouch with five stones. Hamilton holds up his pouch with the five small stones inside. So that's what those stones are for! Can you believe it? David was going to fight a giant with five smooth stones. He didn't have a sword, and he wasn't very big. But God was with him.**

Hamilton and child holding Goliath puppet interact with each other. **When Goliath saw David, he said, "Come here, and I will win this fight!" David wasn't afraid. He knew God was with him. "God will help me win this fight," David said. David took a stone out of his pouch and put it into his sling. He swung it around and around. And then ... the stone went soaring through the air. Let's pretend we're David. Everyone stand up and get a stone from your pouch. Stand up with children and pretend to do this with them. Put it in your sling. Now swing it around your head and throw it. Good job! Now you can sit down. The stone hit Goliath right between his eyes, and he fell to the ground. God had won the fight! God is powerful!**

Have the children say good-bye to Hamilton as he goes back into his house, and thank him for coming to be a part of The Big God Story.






*Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond to God through creative activities and games.*

## Song of Celebration

Friends, we just learned that God is powerful. When I hear the word “powerful,” I think of big, strong things. Can you stand up and pretend you’re big and strong? Encourage kids to make muscles. **Wow, you look so strong!** When David made Goliath fall down to the ground, we saw God’s power. We can celebrate God and His power! Let’s sing a song together that talks about God being big and strong. **God is more powerful than anyone or anything!**

Lead kids in a celebratory worship song. Suggested song: “God, You’re Big” from TruWorship *Your Love*.

**Snack:** If you’d like to tie the snack into the lesson, you can give the kids rice cereal treats that they can shape into stones. As the kids eat, sit down with them and engage them in conversation. Be sure to consider any food allergies or check with parents ahead of time. 

## Option 1: Puppet People

To help them remember how God helped David fight the giant Goliath, children make their own David and Goliath puppets.

### SUPPLIES

- David and Goliath Puppets template (see Resources)
- Card stock (white)
- Scissors
- Craft sticks (2 per child, large)
- Glue or tape
- Washable markers or crayons
- Permanent marker

### PREPARE AHEAD

Print the David and Goliath Puppets template onto the card stock. Make one copy of David and Goliath for each child, and cut out the puppets ahead of time. Use the permanent marker to write “David” or “Goliath” on the bottom of the craft sticks. You can also pre-glue the puppets onto the craft sticks if you don’t want your kids to glue. Keep in mind that it may be a little more difficult for children to color the puppets if they’re already attached to the sticks.

### SET UP

Place one set of puppets in front of each child’s seat. Place the markers or crayons in the middle of the table.

### RELATE

**God helped David fight the giant Goliath. We’re going to make two puppets today—David and Goliath. First, we’re going to color them.** When children finish coloring their puppets, invite them to glue the puppets onto the craft sticks (if you haven’t done so already). Provide assistance as needed.

## Option 2: Where Is David?

Children play a game and sing a song with the David and Goliath puppets they made.

### SUPPLIES

- Puppets (from Option 1)

### SET UP

Give children their puppets.

### RELATE

Invite children to join you on the floor. Be sure they have their puppets with them. **Everyone made two puppets today. Can you remember the names of the puppets?** Allow children to respond. **Great! Let’s hold up our David puppet.** Pause for response. **Now show me Goliath.** Encourage kids to hold up Goliath puppets. **Great job!**

**We’re going to play a game with our puppets.** Have children practice holding up the different puppets when you say the names. **Good job! Now let’s put the puppets on the floor in front of us. We’re going to sing a song.** Sing to the tune of “Where Is Thumbkin?”

*Where is David? Where is David?* Hold up David.

*Here I am. Here I am.*

*Were you with your sheep, sir? Were you with your sheep, sir?*

*Yes, I was. Yes, I was.*

*Where is Goliath? Where is Goliath?* Hold up Goliath. Say Goliath's words in a low, loud voice.

*Here I am. Here I am.*

*You are very tall, sir. You are very tall, sir.*

*Yes, I am. Yes, I am.*

Let's not forget that David was a small, young shepherd, and God chose him to fight against Goliath. Even though David was small, God is powerful. Encourage children to take the puppets home to tell their family that God is powerful.

### Option 3: Who Is Powerful?

As children remember that God is powerful, they dance and shout out, "God is powerful" when the music stops.

#### SUPPLIES

- Upbeat music

#### SET UP

Set up music.

#### RELATE

Encourage children to join you in an open space. **Friends, we know God is powerful. He can do anything! We learned how He chose David, a young shepherd, to be a king, and how He helped David knock down Goliath. We're going to celebrate how powerful God is. Let's dance to the music. When the music stops, I'm going to ask you: Who is powerful? You can shout to me: God is powerful!**

Play upbeat music and dance with kids. Pause music and ask children: **Who is powerful?** Help them respond: **God is powerful!** You can pause the music as many or as few times as you like. Note: While pausing to shout out, "God is powerful," you could have kids demonstrate strength by holding their arms in a strong-man pose. This is an easy action that can help them remember The Big God Story later on.

### Developmentally Speaking

Three-year-olds love pretend play. You can encourage imagination and pretending by prompting children to sing and dance as a means of acting out the various parts of a simple story.

### Hamilton's Box of Fun

#### SUPPLIES

- "The Cleanup Song" (see Resources)
- Box or basket
- Floor puzzle (large)
- Puzzles (5–6 pieces)
- Play dough 
- Lacing beads (large, wooden)
- Parachute (small) and foam balls

#### SET UP

Put a variety of fun objects/toys in the box or basket. Hide it somewhere in the room. Clean the objects each week after use.

#### RELATE

Invite the kids to your circle time area and sing together:

**Hamilton's Box** (sung to the tune of "Oh Where, Oh Where Has My Little Dog Gone?")

*Oh where, oh where is Hamilton's Box?  
Oh where, oh where can it be?  
It's full of fun toys that we sure like a lot  
Oh where, oh where can it be?*

Pick one or two kids to help find the box or basket. Once it's found, you can place it in the middle of your circle time area and invite the kids to come and explore what's inside. **Come on over, everyone! What fun things can we explore today? Let's take turns playing with things and even play together.**

When it's time to put the toys away, cue the kids with "The Cleanup Song."

## **BLESS//**5 minutes



*Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.*

### **SUPPLIES**

- TruBlessings coloring sheet (see Resources)
- At Home Weekly: Lesson 2 (see Resources)
- Bible

### **RELATE**

Gather the children around you to bless them. Speak this blessing over them:

**Children, may you know that God is powerful.**

Open a Bible and read Psalm 68:35b:

**The God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God!**

Send home the At Home Weekly with your kids.



WEEK

4.3

# Part of The Big God Story

**1 Kings 17:1-6**

Elijah obeyed God's words. Everything happened just as God had said. The ravens brought Elijah bread and meat to eat and he drank from the brook. God took care of Elijah.

## Ponder Point

**GOD TAKES CARE OF ME**

## Blessing

Open a Bible and read 1 John 4:8b:  
"God is love."

## Blessing

(Insert your child's name), **may you know that God cares for you and loves you.**

## Did You Know?

- God sent the famine as judgment for King Ahab leading the nation of Israel into idol worship.
- Though it is uncertain how long Elijah stayed at the brook Kerith, many commentators believe it was at least six months!

Hamilton says,  
**"Dig into God's Word"**

**Read 1 Kings 17:1-6.** After reading, remind your child that God used the ravens to bring food for Elijah every day.

## Tot Talk

Who took care of Elijah while he was hiding at the brook? God cared for Elijah by sending the ravens to bring food.

Your child's imagination is developing. During mealtime, allow your child to use her fork to "fly" her food to her mouth like the ravens flew to bring Elijah's food.

## Tot Talk

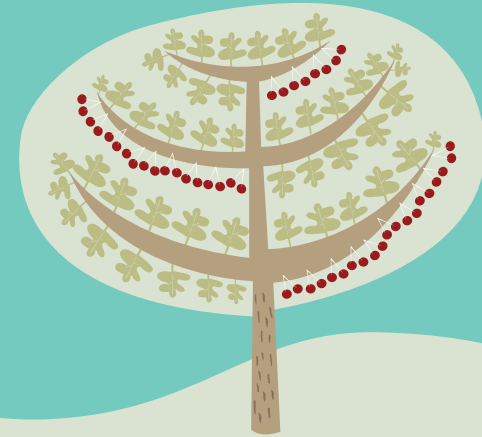
If you were Elijah, what kind of food would you have liked the ravens to bring you? What kind of food did the ravens bring to Elijah?

WEEK

4.4

**tru blessings**  
inspire. equip. support.

**at|home**<sup>TM</sup>  
WEEKLY



**A Parent Preteach Resource**

for the weeks of ...

[Empty rectangular box for writing dates]

**G**od has given parents the privilege of being the primary spiritual nurturers of their children's faith.

The At Home Weekly is designed to reinforce that truth by allowing your family to have time in God's Word **before your child attends church each week**. It will provide you with ways to introduce The Big God Story and have age-appropriate conversations with your little one as you prepare her for what she will be experiencing in church for the next four weeks.

Research has shown that children between the ages of two and four learn best through repetition. Because of this, TruBlessings will spend two weeks on the same part of **The Big God Story** and the **Ponder Point**.

Each week you will receive a new **Blessing**. A blessing is a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words of encouragement and guidance. While giving the blessing, you may desire to lay hands on your child as you speak the Scripture or pray a prayer over him.



### Hamilton the Hedgehog

will play a role in your child's experience in church each week—be sure to ask about him. He loves to **Dig into God's Word**. The passage of Scripture provided will assist you as you reinforce the Ponder Point.

**Did You Know?** has fun facts about this part of The Big God Story for you to share with your child. And **Tot Talk** is simply a conversation starter to assist you as you spiritually parent.

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## Part of The Big God Story

### WEEK

4.1

### 1 Samuel 16–17

God had rejected Saul as king and sent Samuel to the house of Jesse where he would choose Israel's new king. Samuel anointed David. God's Spirit was on David and when he fought Goliath, David was victorious.

### Ponder Point

GOD IS POWERFUL

### Blessing

Open a Bible and read Psalm 68:35b:  
**"The God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God!"**

### WEEK

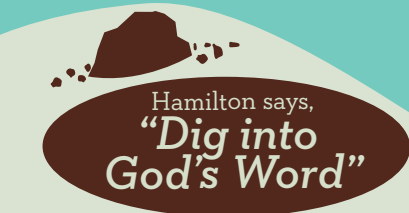
4.2

### Blessing

(Insert your child's name), **may you learn to see God's amazing power in your life.**

### Did You Know?

- David was the smallest and youngest of his eight brothers. It surprised everyone when Samuel anointed him as the future king.
- It's possible that Goliath could have been as much as nine and a half feet tall!



**Read 1 Samuel 17:32-37.** After reading, remind your child that David wasn't afraid because he knew God is more powerful than Goliath.

### Tot Talk

Your child may enjoy looking at his reflection. Allow him to see his own power by flexing his muscles in a mirror.

Why were the Israelites afraid of Goliath? How did David beat Goliath?

### Tot Talk

What does this part of The Big God Story tell you about God? He is more powerful than anything or anyone!

## Fall Quarter

Lesson	Ponder Point	Bible Passage	Foundational Truth
1	God Made Our World (Creation)	Gen. 1–2:3	God Made Me
2	God Made Our World (Creation)	Gen. 1–2:3	God Made Me
3	God Made People (Adam & Eve)	Gen. 1:26–31; 2:4–25	God Made Me
4	God Made People (Adam & Eve)	Gen. 1:26–31; 2:4–25	God Made Me
5	God Is Mighty (Moses)	Ex. 14:13–15:21	God Made Me
6	God Is Mighty (Moses)	Ex. 14:13–15:21	God Made Me
7	God Cares for Me (Manna)	Ex. 16; Num. 11:7–9	God Made Me
8	God Cares for Me (Manna)	Ex. 16; Num. 11:7–9	God Made Me
9	God Speaks (Calling of Samuel)	1 Sam. 3	God Made Me
10	God Speaks (Calling of Samuel)	1 Sam. 3	God Made Me
11	God Is Worshipped (Psalms)	Ps. 27:6; 30:11; 95:2; 98:4; 108:1; 149:3	God Made Me
12	God Is Worshipped (Psalms)	Ps. 27:6; 30:11; 95:2; 98:4; 108:1; 149:3	God Made Me
13	<b>Remember &amp; Celebrate Weekend</b>		God Made Me



## Winter Quarter

Lesson	Ponder Point	Bible Passage	Foundational Truth
1	God Keeps His Promise (Mary and Joseph)	Luke 1:26–56; Matt. 1:18–25	God Loves Me
2	God Keeps His Promise (Mary and Joseph)	Luke 1:26–56; Matt. 1:18–25	God Loves Me
3	Jesus Is Born (Christmas)	Luke 2:8–20	God Loves Me
4	Jesus Is Born (Christmas)	Luke 2:8–20	God Loves Me
5	Jesus Chooses Us to Follow Him (Calling of the Apostles)	Luke 5:1–11	God Loves Me
6	Jesus Chooses Us to Follow Him (Calling of the Apostles)	Luke 5:1–11	God Loves Me
7	Jesus Is God (Calming the Storm)	Matt. 8:23–27; Mark 4:35–41	God Loves Me
8	Jesus Is God (Calming the Storm)	Matt. 8:23–27; Mark 4:35–41	God Loves Me
9	Jesus Cares (Feeding the 5,000)	Matt. 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–17; John 6:1–15	God Loves Me
10	Jesus Cares (Feeding the 5,000)	Matt. 14:13–21; Mark 6:30–44; Luke 9:10–17; John 6:1–15	God Loves Me
11	Jesus Is Powerful (Healing of the Blind Man)	John 9:1–12	God Loves Me
12	Jesus Is Powerful (Healing of the Blind Man)	John 9:1–12	God Loves Me
13	<b>Remember &amp; Celebrate Weekend</b>		God Loves Me

## Spring Quarter

Lesson	Ponder Point	Bible Passage	Foundational Truth
1	God Is with Me (Walking on Water)	Mark 6:45–51; Matt 14:22–33	God Is with Me
2	God Is with Me (Walking on Water)	Mark 6:45–51; Matt 14:22–33	God Is with Me
3	Jesus Is My Shepherd (The Good Shepherd)	John 10:1-21	God Is with Me
4	Jesus Is King (Triumphal Entry)	Matt. 21:1–11; Mark 11:1–11; Luke 19:28–38	God Is with Me
5	Jesus Is King (Triumphal Entry)	Matt. 21:1–11; Mark 11:1–11; Luke 19:28–38	God Is with Me
6	Jesus Is Alive (Easter)	John 19–20	God Is with Me
7	Jesus Is Alive (Easter)	John 19–20	God Is with Me
8	Jesus Is the Good News (The Great Commission)	Matt. 28:16–20	God Is with Me
9	Jesus Is the Good News (The Great Commission)	Matt. 28:16–20	God Is with Me
10	God Is Love (The Church in Antioch)	Acts 11:19-30	God Is with Me
11	God Listens to Our Prayers (Peter Freed from Prison)	Acts 12:1–19	God Is with Me
12	God Listens to Our Prayers (Peter Freed from Prison)	Acts 12:1–19	God Is with Me
13	<b><i>Remember &amp; Celebrate Weekend</i></b>		God Is with Me

**Bonus Lesson: Jesus Wants Us to Remember His Love (The Last Supper)**

## Summer Quarter

Lesson	Ponder Point	Bible Passage	Foundational Truth
1	God Is Powerful (David and the Giant)	1 Sam. 16–17	God Made Me
2	God Is Powerful (David and the Giant)	1 Sam. 16–17	God Made Me
3	God Takes Care of Me (Elijah & the Ravens)	1 Kings 17:1–6	God Loves Me
4	God Takes Care of Me (Elijah & the Ravens)	1 Kings 17:1–6	God Loves Me
5	God Is With Me (Elijah on the Mountain)	1 Kings 19:9–18	God Is With Me
6	God Is With Me (Elijah on the Mountain)	1 Kings 19:9–18	God Is With Me
7	Our God Saves (Jonah)	Jonah	God Made Me
8	Our God Saves (Jonah)	Jonah	God Made Me
9	God's Word Has Power (Josiah)	2 Kings 22–23:23	God Loves Me
10	God's Word Has Power (Josiah)	2 Kings 22–23:23	God Loves Me
11	God Is the Living God (Daniel in the Lions' Den)	Dan. 6	God Is With Me
12	God Is the Living God (Daniel in the Lions' Den)	Dan. 6	God Is With Me
13	<b>Remember &amp; Celebrate Weekend</b>		God Made Me, God Loves Me, and God Is with Me





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