

# Israel Needs a Leader

Wanted: Leader of Israel  
Judges 2:6-23

Bible Point

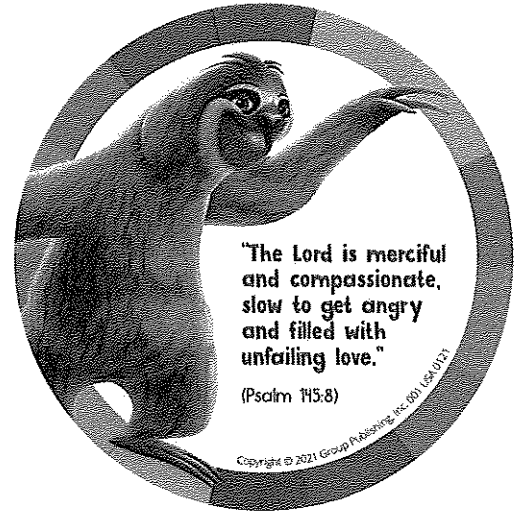
**God is patient...even when we forget about him.**

## Purpose

"What was I thinking?" you wonder to yourself sadly. You'd messed up, talked to God about it, and promised it wouldn't happen again. But then it does happen again. The gossip slips out of your mouth. Or the road rage kicks in. You feel horrible.

Sin has a way of coming around again and again in our lives. While it's true that God forgives us and remembers our sins no more (Hebrews 8:12), sin is and will continue to be a struggle on this side of heaven. It's as sad and frustrating as the book of Judges.

But there's good news: God is patient. He won't give up on you, even when you forget about him. Perfection isn't a requirement for teaching children God's Word. As you lead this lesson, help kids remember God's presence in their lives. Rather than leading from a place of shame or guilt, authentically show kids what living in God's forgiveness and freedom looks like.



## Prayer

Dear God, time and again, I forget about you and your work in our world and in my life. I'm sorry. Thanks for your unfailing love and forgiveness. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Prep

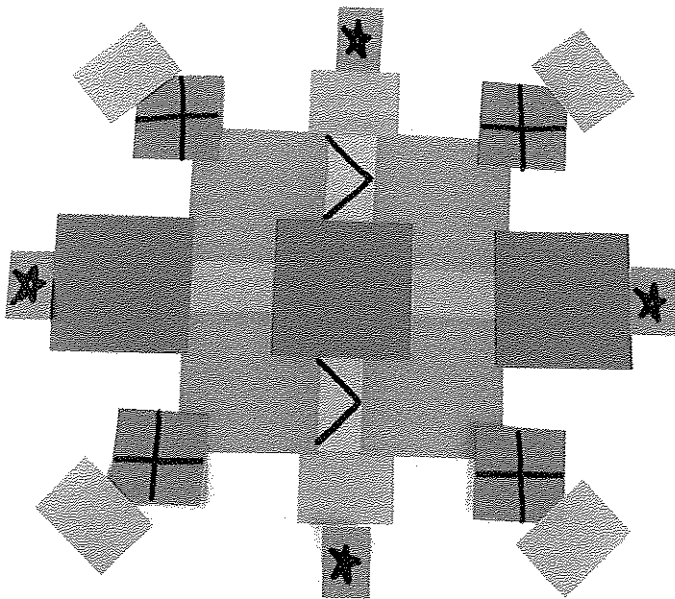
Opening Options	Sing & Play	Bible Discovery & Friendship Finale	Apply-It Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Option Cards*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Stick to It</i>: sticky notes, markers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ping-Pong Bounce</i>: ping-pong balls, cups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> countdown video*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music Video</i> DVD*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Buddy Video</i> DVD*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Moe Bible Memory Buddy poster*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> media player</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Psalm 145:8)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> "Israel Needs a Leader" Bible Story poster*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Moe Bible Memory Buddy stickers* (1 per child)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take-It-Home Flyers* (Unit 1, Week 1) (1 per child)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Judges 2:10-12, 13-15, 18, 19)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> puzzles or another simple activity kids will enjoy (1 per Crew)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> paper</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> marker</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> tape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Explore More</i>: Bibles, paper towels (1 per person), washable markers, shallow tray of water</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Game</i>: upbeat music, media player, chairs</li> </ul>

\* in your **Simply Loved Kit**



# Opening Options

Set up one—or both—of these intro activities to start your time together. Each activity connects kids to the Bible Point and to each other. Cut apart these Option Cards, and place one by each activity you choose. Crew Guides will follow the directions and build friendships with kids as they make discoveries together!



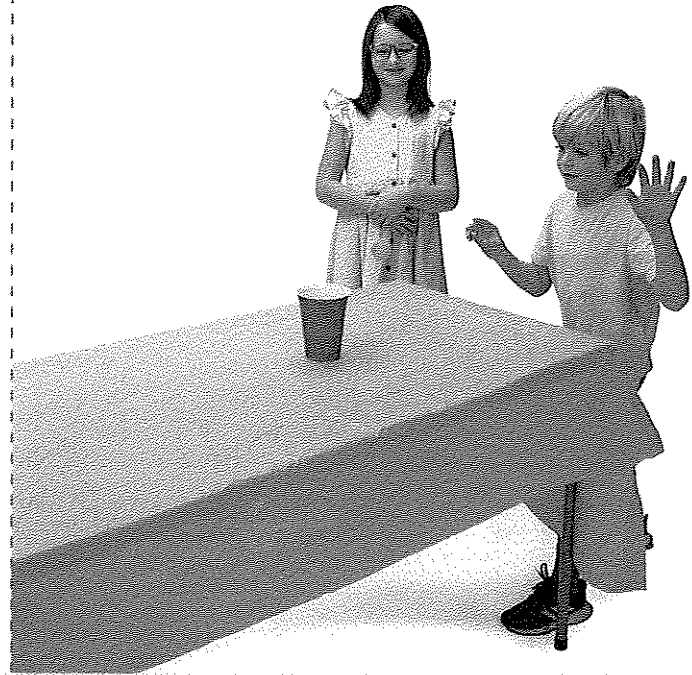
## Stick to It

**Supplies:** sticky notes, markers

Work together to make a pattern with sticky notes and decorate it with markers.

**?** What's a routine, or pattern, that you repeat every day?

A pattern is something that repeats again and again. In our Bible story, God's people followed a not-so-good pattern of forgetting about God again and again. But God is patient. God helped his people over and over again.



## Ping-Pong Bounce

**Supplies:** ping-pong balls, cups

Put a cup on one side of a table. Stand across from the cup and try to toss a ping-pong ball so it bounces and lands in the cup.

**?** Tell about a time you were way off and missed the mark.

The ping-pong ball didn't always bounce into the cup right away. But with patience and a gentle touch, you'd eventually succeed. Today we'll discover that God is patient. Over and over, the Israelites missed the mark, but God never left them.

# Opening

Now's a great time for Opening Options. Choose one—or both—to introduce today's Bible discoveries.



countdown video (1 minute)

Help kids transition, clean up the activities, and sit with Connect Crews. A Connect Crew is a small group of kids with one Crew Guide.

## Sing & Play

Hello and welcome! Let's begin with a song.



"No, Not One" music video

I'm so glad we all have a friend in God's Son, Jesus. I know he'll be with us today as we learn more about God and his Word.

### Bible Point

Today we'll discover that God is patient. Every time you hear the words "God is patient," touch your chin, then move your arm forward like this (demonstrate) and say, "Thanks, God!" This motion is how you say "thank you" in sign language. Pretty cool, huh? Let's try that together.

- Touch your chin, then bring your arm forward and say, "Thanks, God!"
- Repeat several times

Repetition cements learning, so be sure to say today's Bible Point A LOT. Have fun with it! Kids will love listening for it and responding with "Thanks, God!"

When we're patient, we're willing to wait. *And* we aren't annoyed as we wait. Instead, we're forgiving. Need an example? Hold up a Bible. Time and again in the Bible, we see examples of God being patient and gracious with his people. We'll find out more about that today. God's patience is with us, too! We can always lean on him. Let's sing about that!



"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" music video

### Supplies

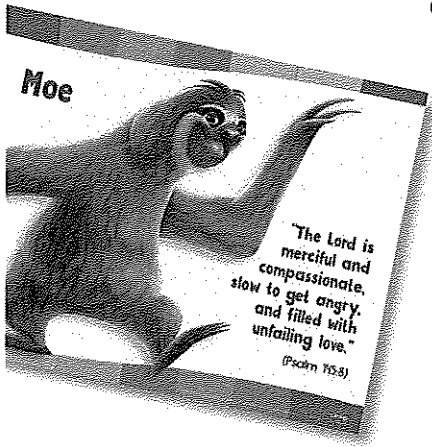
- Bible
- media player
- *Music Video* DVD
  - "No, Not One" music video
  - "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" music video
  - "All That Is Good" music video
- *Buddy Video* DVD
  - Moe Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 1)
- Moe Bible Memory Buddy poster



Thanks, God!

## Bible Memory Buddy & Verse


Moe the sloth is our Bible Memory Buddy! Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster. How much do you know about Moe and his sloth friends? Let's find out with a This-or-That Challenge! You'll hear two fun facts about sloths. It's up to you to decide which is true—this fact or that!



❓ How far can most sloths move in a minute: 4 feet or 6 feet?

- Have everyone slowly hold up four fingers to vote for *this* (4 feet) or six fingers to vote for *that* (6 feet).
- Make a drumroll sound by patting your thighs or the floor.
- Dramatically give the answer as you slowly walk about 6 feet forward. **Most sloths can move up to 6 feet in one minute. That's moving prettttty slowly. Let's find out more about Moe.**
- Watch the Bible Memory Buddy video to meet Moe.

 Moe Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 1)

 Show the Bible. **The Bible is God's true story of love! It's a big book that's filled with lots of little books. Let's say the verse together. I'll say a line, and then you repeat it after me.**

**"The Lord is merciful** (*extend one arm*)  
**and compassionate,** (*extend other arm*)  
**slow to get angry** (*slowly move palms down*)  
**and filled with unfailing love."** (*move arms up*)  
(Psalm 145:8)

**God is patient.** (*Thanks, God!*) **All good things come from God. Let's celebrate with another song.**

 "All That Is Good" music video

# Bible Discovery

## Circle Up & Connect

Let's circle up and spend a little time simply getting to know each other in smaller groups called **Connect Crews**.

- Arrange kids into Connect Crews with one helper—or Crew Guide—per group.
  - Invite kids to sit in knee-to-knee circles with their Connect Crews.
  - Have kids give their Crew Guides an elbow bump.
  - Have kids take turns saying their names and answering this question. Crew Guides go first.
- 🗣️ **When have you forgotten something?**

## The Heart of the Matter

It's so easy to forget stuff, and it can be easy to forget about God, too. I'm going to tell you a story about how patient God is—even with the forgetful people he loves.

Today's Bible story begins with God's people, the Israelites, finally settling into the land God had promised to give them. God had made the promise a long time before, and it had finally happened. All the people moved into their new homes and got comfy. I think we should do that here in our space, too!

Have Connect Crews each choose a place in the room to be their "land" and sit in a circle.

**Welcome to your new land! Now that you're settled, why not have some fun? Here's something for your Crew to do.**

Give each Crew a puzzle or another simple activity to have fun with together. Interrupt everyone after three to five minutes. **Wow! I got distracted and forgot to keep telling you the Bible story. We still have a lot to discover about God today. Let's clean up and get going.** Have everyone clean up the activities and put them to the side.

- 🗣️ **What do you think would have happened if there was no leader here to steer us back toward our Bible story?** Invite responses from the whole group.

**We needed a leader to guide us toward God or we may have forgotten all about him and done our own thing today. That can happen in our everyday lives, too. Let's talk in our Connect Crews.**

- 🗣️ **Why is it sometimes easy to forget about God?**
- 🗣️ **Tell about a good leader in your life who helps you follow God.** Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

## Supplies

- Bible
- "Israel Needs a Leader" Bible Story poster
- puzzles or another simple activity kids will enjoy (1 per Crew)
- paper
- marker
- tape

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply circle up with the kids. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!



As you invite responses from the whole group, be sure to repeat back what's said to confirm you understand and so everyone in the room can hear.

Even when we forget to think about God, God never stops thinking about us. **God is patient.** (*Thanks, God!*) And God gives us good leaders to help us remember what's most important—God!

But when leaders aren't around, it can be easy to forget all about God. That's what happened over and over in the Bible—especially in the book of Judges. Let's dive in and find out more!

## Experience the Bible Story

*As you tell the story, you'll move with the kids around the room in a big circle, stopping along the way to tape a sign and do a motion.*

**Joshua was Israel's leader. With Joshua in charge, the Israelites served God. They didn't forget God or how he'd helped them, so they were loyal and thankful. But then Joshua died. Let's read what happened when there wasn't a leader anymore.**



Read aloud Judges 2:10-12.

**Well, that's not good. The grown-ups forgot about God, so no one told the kids. No one taught them God's guidelines to obey. God's people forgot all about him and worshipped fake gods like the other nations around their new land. And that got them into trouble over and over.**

**It was like a cycle. Tell me, what do you know about the word *cycle*?** Invite responses. You might talk about the water cycle or how the word *cycle* is part of the word *bicycle*.

Move your finger around in a circle in front of you. **A cycle is a series of actions that repeat over and over. In the Bible, the book of Judges shows a cycle of God's people forgetting and remembering God over and over.**

**Let's make our own cycle. Imagine there is a big circle in our room. We'll make our way around as we talk about the cycle of forgetting and remembering God.**

Have everyone gather near you and a wall or chair. **First, the Israelites would forget God and worship fake gods.** Write "Forget God" on a piece of paper and place it near you on the wall or a chair. **Do this action with me.** Have everyone place a hand to their foreheads as if forgetting something. **Forgetting God was the first stop in the cycle. Let's move to the second.**

Have everyone move with you around the imaginary circle to another place and sit down. Write "Trouble" on a piece of paper and place it on a wall or chair. Have everyone make a panicked face and place their hands on their faces. **Oh no! Let's read about this trouble.**



Read aloud Judges 2:13-15.

**Yikes! An enemy would give the Israelites trouble. God's people were scared. These hard times would make them desperate for God's help. The Bible says God was mad at his people. But God is also patient. (Thanks, God!) God's love was bigger than his frustration. God heard the people's misery and did something to help them. Let's move around the circle and see what it was.**

Have everyone move with you around the imaginary circle and then sit down. Write "Judge" on a piece of paper and place it near you on a different wall or chair. **Judges were God's leaders who helped save the day!** Have everyone put their hands on their hips and strike a hero pose. **Let's read what our patient God did to help his people.**



Read aloud Judges 2:18.

**God is patient. (Thanks, God!) God would send a leader called a judge to help get his people out of trouble. Judges helped the people remember and obey God again! Show the Bible Story poster.**

Have everyone move with you around the imaginary circle. Write "Win!" on a piece of paper and place it near you on a wall or chair. Have everyone pump their fists in the air and jump for joy. **God would work through the judge to rescue his people. But victory was short-lived, I'm afraid. We've got to keep moving.**



Have everyone move with you to one more place around the imaginary circle and then sit down. Write "Goodbye, Judge" on a piece of paper and place it near you on the circle. Have everyone wave goodbye. **When the judge would die, well, I'll read what happened.**



Read aloud Judges 2:19.

**The whole cycle would start again. Here we go!** Stand in the center of the imaginary circle, and motion for everyone to move around the circle and do each action as you review again. No sitting down this time!

- **They'd "Forget God" and worship fake gods like the people around them were doing.** (*hand on forehead*)
- **That would get them in "Trouble" with an enemy.** (*hands on sides of panicked face*)
- **So God would rescue them and send a "Judge."** (*hands on hips like a hero*)
- **God would work through the judge to rescue his people and defeat enemies. God's people would win!** (*fist pump in the air*)
- **But then the judge would die.** (*wave goodbye*)

Repeat this sequence several times, so kids walk around the circle several times. Each time, mention judges' names, like Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Deborah, Gideon, Tola, Jair, Jephthah, Ibzan, Elon, Abdon, and Samson. Finally, have everyone collapse and sit on the floor inside your circle.

**God is patient.** (*Thanks, God!*) **Time and again, God sent judges to help his people get out of trouble. And time and again, God's people forgot about him. God was frustrated. Angry, even! But his love never stopped. Let's talk in our Crews again.**

- Have Connect Crews sit in circles.
- ❓ **When has a leader or parent been frustrated or angry with you?**
- ❓ **How do you know that person still loves you?**
- Share an example from your own life, then invite Crews to discuss.

**Even when we forget about him, God is patient.** (*Thanks, God*) **We mess up and choose our way over God's way sometimes—maybe a lot of times. But God didn't leave the Israelites, and he won't leave us either. Let's thank him with a prayer. Follow my lead.**

**Dear God, sometimes we forget about you** (*place hand on forehead*)  
**And we find ourselves in trouble.** (*place hands on face*)  
**You don't need to help us, but you always do.** (*place hands on hips*)  
**God, you are patient.** (*Thanks, God!*)  
**Help us always remember that you're with us.**  
**Amen.**

Now's a great time for Apply-It Options. Choose one—or both—of the following reinforcement activities to support today's Bible discoveries before the Friendship Finale.



# Apply-It Options

Choose one—or both—of these activities to support kids' learning after Bible Discovery.

## Explore More

**Supplies:** Bibles, paper towels (1 per person), washable markers, shallow tray of water



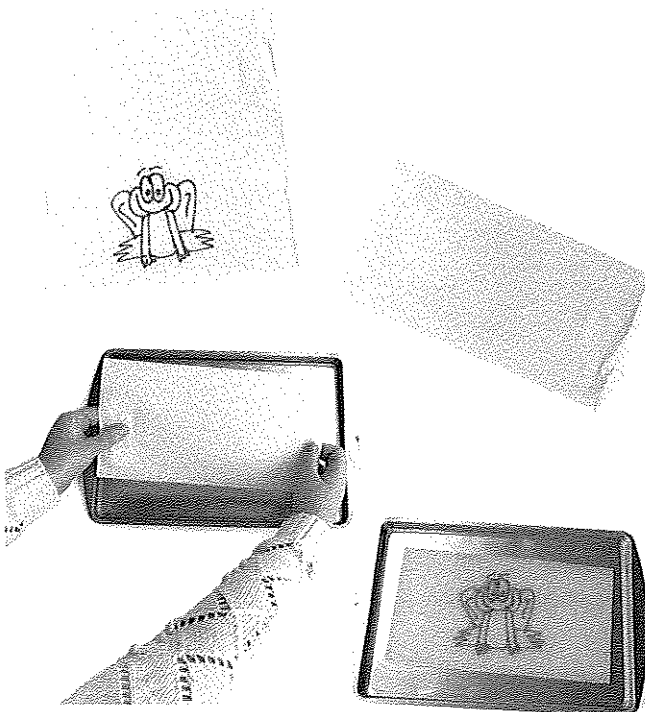
Distribute Bibles, and help kids find and read Psalm 86:15; 103:8; and 145:8 together.

**This same verse shows up *three times* in Psalms. You can even find these words in a few other places in the Bible.**

❓ **Why do you think it's written in the Bible so many times?**

**God is patient.** *(Thanks, God!)* Like the Israelites, we may forget about God and go our own way time and again. But time and again, God reminds us of his love for us that'll never go away. We may forget about God, but God never leaves us.

- Draw a picture on half of a paper towel. Then fold the other half over it to cover it up to show you "forget" about it.
- Then place the paper towel in water and watch as the drawing reappears!



## Game

**Supplies:** upbeat music, media player, chairs

Play Musical Chairs. Place chairs in a circle, with one fewer chair than the number of players. Have everyone walk quickly around the chairs as music plays. When the music stops, everyone must scramble to sit in a chair. Whoever does not have a chair is out. Remove another chair, and play again. If you'd like to mix up movements, have everyone skip, hop, or march around the circle.

**In our game, we went around, around, and around again. When the music stopped, we stopped! The Israelites discovered that it can be a little more difficult to stop not-so-good cycles in our lives. I'm glad God is patient.** *(Thanks, God!)* When we pay attention to him, it's easier to stop going our own way and stick with him instead.

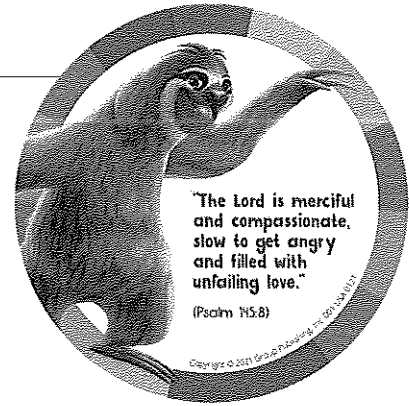
❓ **What things can we do to stop doing what we want to do and start going God's way instead?**



## Supplies

- Moe Bible Memory Buddy stickers (1 per child)
- Take-It-Home Flyers (Unit 1, Week 1) (1 per child)

# Friendship Finale



**Moe, our Bible Memory Buddy, can help us remember that God is patient. (Thanks, God!) You'll each receive a Moe sticker so you don't forget that God is *slowww* to get angry and filled with love for you. It'll be a great reminder this week! You can wear it now or take it home with you.**

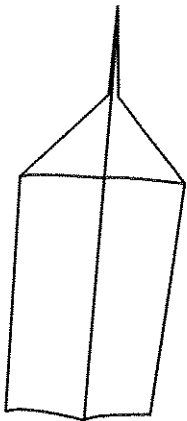
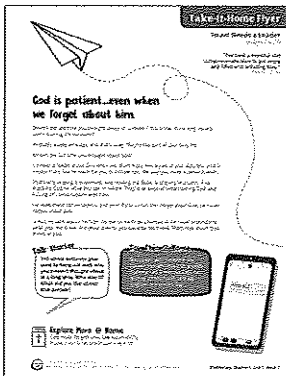
- Ask a willing child to help you demonstrate how Crew Guides will give the Bible Memory Buddy sticker.
- Have the child walk in a circle around you a few times. Then say, "Stop, [child's name]! **God is patient with you.**"
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has received a sticker.

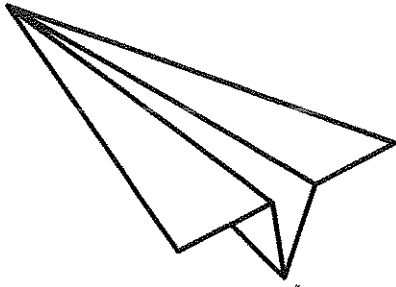
**Saying each child's name in a loving way helps kids simply experience God's love through you!**

**Even when we forget about God, God doesn't forget about us. He loves us so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin once and for all! We can talk to Jesus every time we fall back into a cycle of sin and go our own way. And every time, Jesus will offer love and forgiveness.**

**Listen while I read something about our friend Jesus. As I read, please bow your head and close your eyes like you're praying.**

- Read the first section of the Unit 1, Week 1 Take-It-Home Flyer.
- **Now I'll give you one of these flyers to help you talk about Jesus' love in your Connect Crews *and* at home, too. Think of this as a practice time for talking about Jesus with your family at home.**
- Distribute Take-It-Home Flyers to Crew Guides, and have them share about their own friendship with Jesus as they discuss the "Talk Starter" question and then invite kids to share.
- Kids share prayer requests—things they'd like to tell Jesus—in their Connect Crews.
- Connect Crews pray together.
- Crew Guides distribute Take-It-Home Flyers and follow the directions to help kids fold the paper to "fly" home. ○





## Israel Needs a Leader

(Judges 2:6-23)

"The Lord is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love."

(Psalm 145:8)

## God is patient...even when we forget about him.

When's the last time you thought about an anteater? You know, those long-nosed, weird-looking ant vacuums?

Probably a long time ago, and that's okay. They're not part of your daily life.

When's the last time you thought about God?

It's easy to forget about God when you don't make him a part of your daily life. God is always there, but he waits for you to include him, the way you invite in other friends.

That's why praying is important. And reading the Bible. And going to church. And thanking God for what you see in nature. They're all ways of remembering God and kicking off conversations with him.

He loves those conversations, and even if you sometimes forget about God, he never forgets about you.

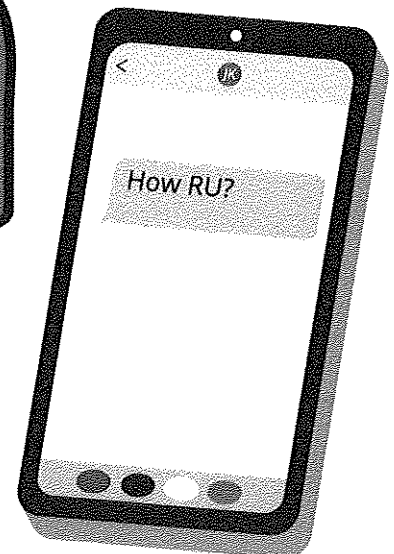
In fact, he sent Jesus—his Son—to live on earth as a human so he could understand what your life is like. And Jesus died so you could be his friend. That's how much God thinks of you.

### Talk-Starters

Tell about someone you used to hang out with who you haven't thought about in a long time. Who was it? What did you like about that person?

### Try This @ Home

Reconnect with someone you haven't thought about for a while. A phone call, a text message, or mailing a handmade card will brighten someone's day!



### Explore More @ Home

God never forgets you! See Isaiah 49:15; Psalm 139:13-16; and Psalm 139:7-10.



# Make this page fly home!

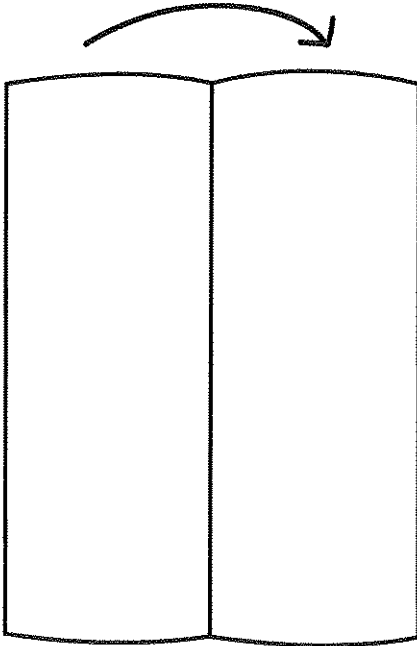
Fold a flyer. When you get home



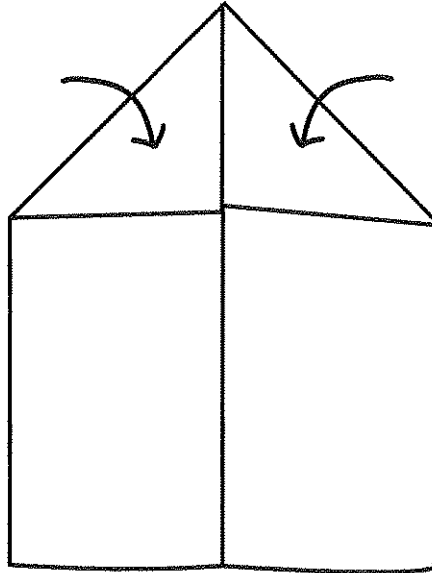
...lay a phone on a table.  
See who can land the plane  
closest to the phone—you or  
a family member.

## Here's how:

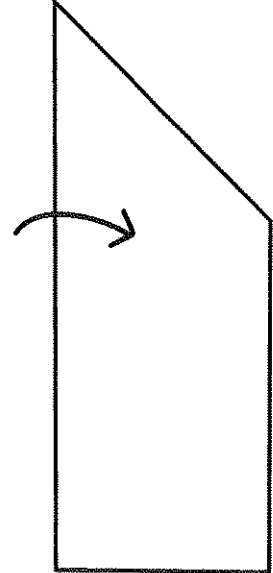
- ① Fold the paper in half lengthwise as shown.



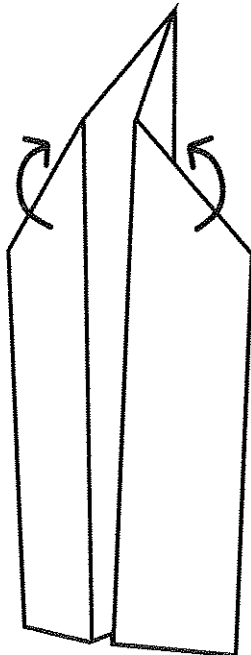
- ② Unfold, and then fold the top two corners to the center line to create flaps.



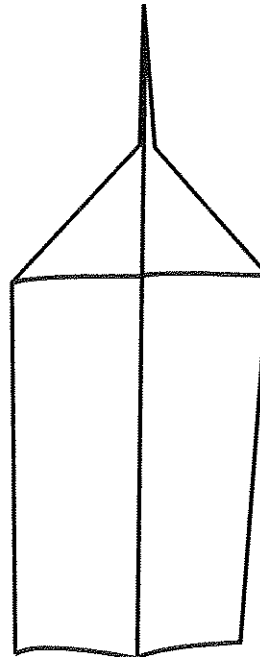
- ③ Once again, fold the paper on half.



- ④ Fold the edges down to meet the bottom of the airplane body.

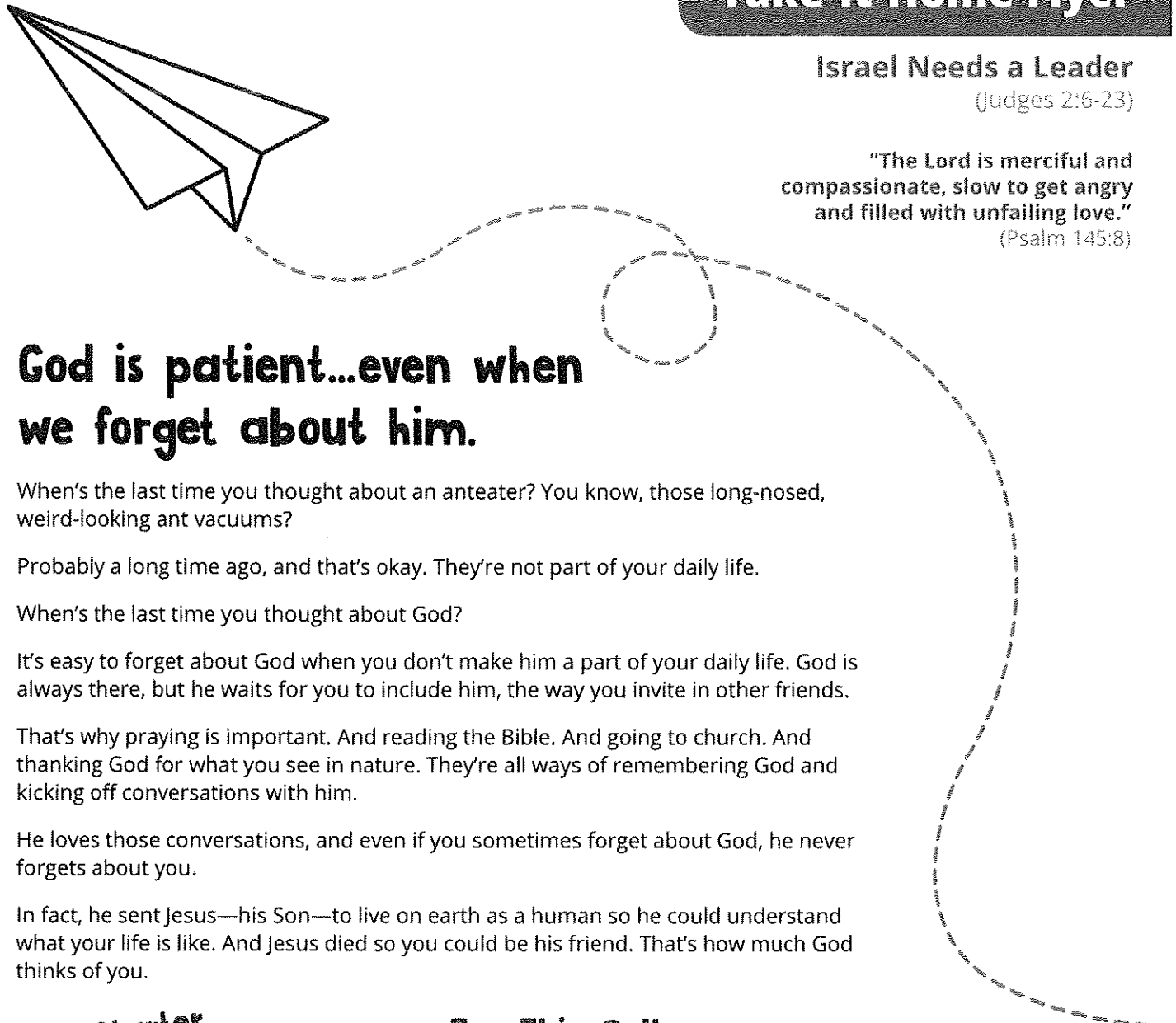


- ⑤ Take aim, and let it fly!



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(Judges 2:6-23)

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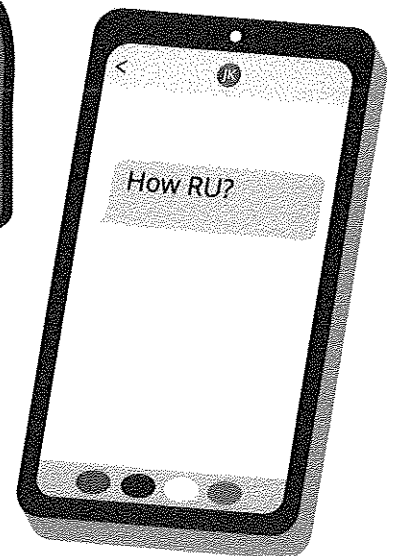
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### Talk-~~starter~~

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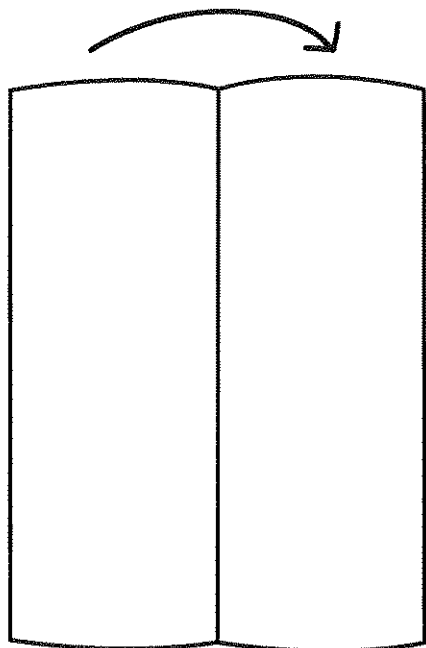
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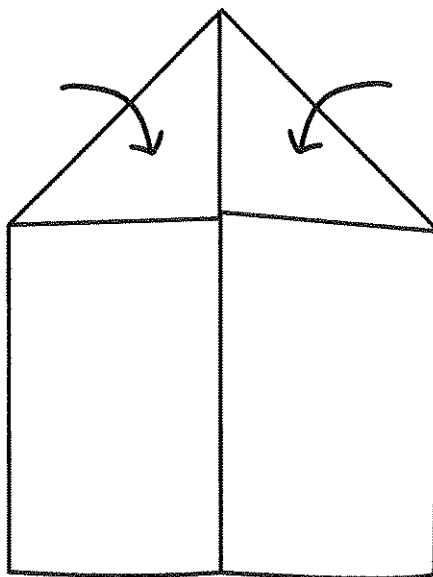
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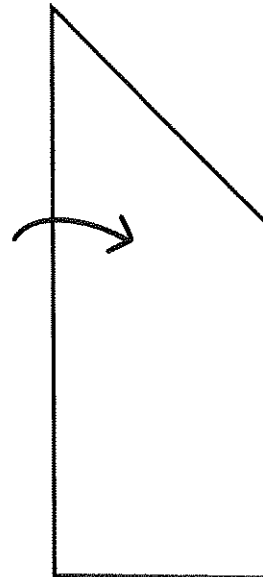
- ① Fold the paper in half lengthwise as shown.



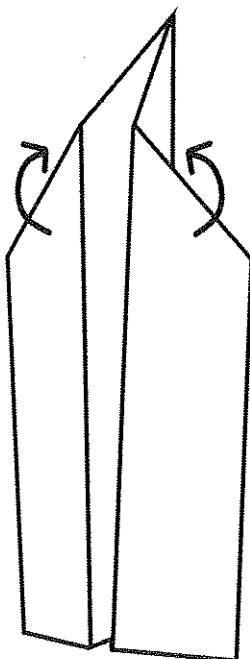
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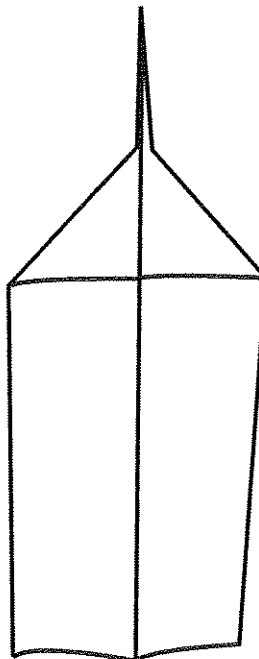
- ③ Once again, fold the paper on half.



- ④ Fold the edges down to meet the bottom of the airplane body.



- ⑤ Take aim, and let it fly!



# Israel Needs a Leader

Wanted: Leader of Israel

Judges 2:6-23

Bible Point

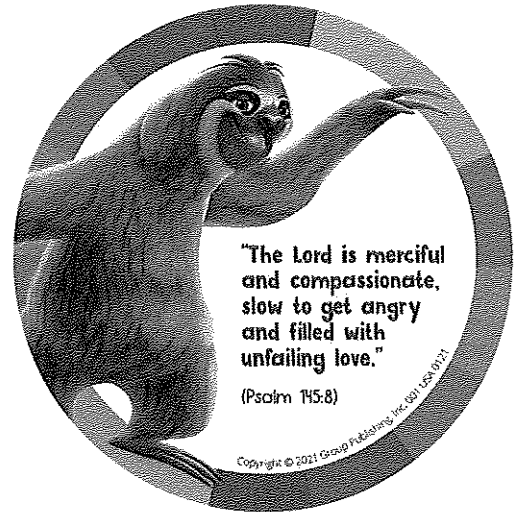
**God is patient.**

## Purpose

Are you a patient children's ministry leader? Are you able to take a breath and repeat yourself for the 10,000th time? How high do your frustrations rise when chaos ensues? Do you keep your cool, even when you're met with less-than-desirable behavior? Maybe you've been tempted to high-tail it out of that classroom and not come back.

God was patient with the Israelites. But he was still frustrated. They had forgotten about God, after all, and were doing everything he had told their ancestors not to do. And yet God didn't walk away. Instead he sent help—leaders to turn people's hearts back to God and his perfect ways.

So ask God for an extra dose of his patience today. When the sweet kids in your group aren't so sweet, remember God's great love for them. He is with you as you lead and guide kids to love and obey their merciful and loving God.



## Prayer

Dear God, thank you for being patient with me and loving me even when I forget to devote my heart to you. Help me as I lead your children today. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Prep

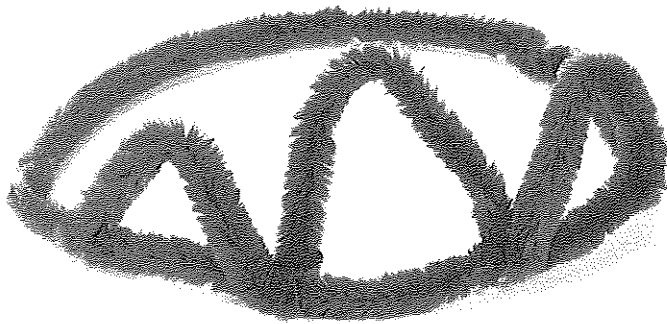
Opening Options	Sing & Play	Bible Discovery & Goodbye Circle	Apply-It Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Option Cards*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Crowns With a Twist</i>: jumbo chenille wires</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Card Path</i>: index cards, crayons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music CD</i>*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music Video DVD</i>*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Buddy Video DVD</i>*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Moe Bible Memory Buddy poster*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> media player</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Psalm 145:8)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> "Israel Needs a Leader" Bible Story poster*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music CD</i>*</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> blankets and pillows</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Moe Bible Memory Buddy stickers* (1 per child)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> media player</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Judges 2:7, 18-19)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Game</i>: no supplies</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Food-n-Friendship</i>: snack, napkins, hand cleanser, <i>Music CD</i>*, media player</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Coloring Creation</i>: "Israel Needs a Leader" Coloring Creation pages* (1 per child), crayons, small cups of water, <i>Music CD</i>*, media player</li> </ul>

\* in your *Simply Loved Kit*



# Opening Options

Set up one—or both—of these intro activities to start your time together. Each activity connects kids to the Bible Point and to each other. Cut apart these Option Cards, and place one by each activity you choose. Crew Guides will follow the directions and build friendships with kids as they make discoveries together.



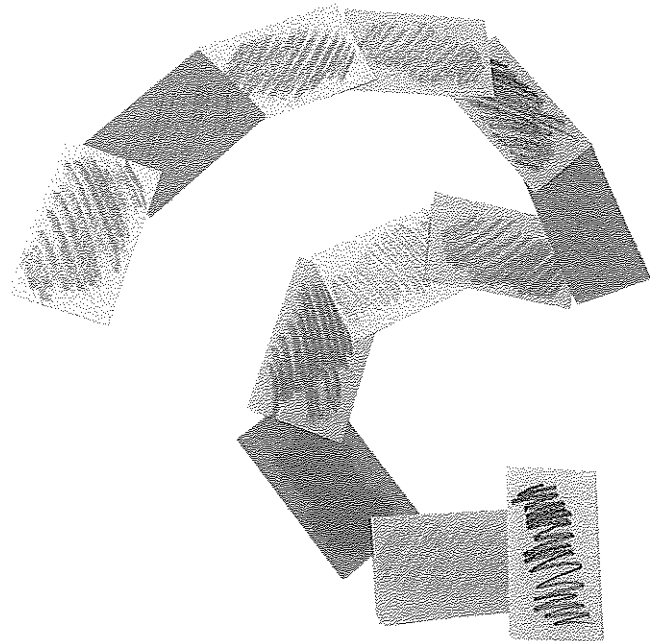
## Crowns With a Twist

**Supplies:** jumbo chenille wires

Make a crown.

**?** If you were a king or queen, what would your castle be like?

Sometimes leaders who are called kings or queens wear fancy crowns. Good leaders are patient and kind. God is patient, too! Today we'll hear about leaders called *judges* who helped God's people love and obey God.



## Card Path

**Supplies:** index cards, crayons

Decorate cards, then use them to make a path across the table.

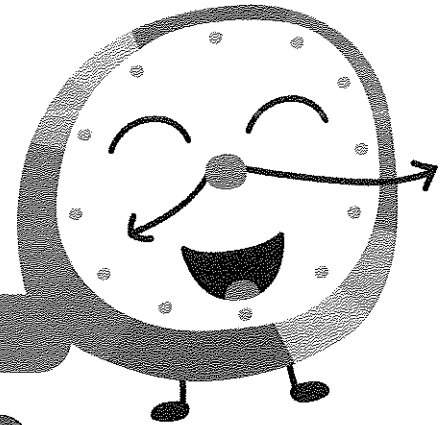
**?** If you could follow a path to a special place, where would you want it to go?

We can follow paths to take us places. In our Bible story today, the people didn't follow God. But God was patient with them and sent them leaders called *judges* to help them. God is patient with us, too.



# Opening

Now's a great time for Opening Options. Choose one—or both—to introduce today's Bible discoveries.



 **"The Cleanup Song"** (*Music CD track 1*)

Help kids transition by cleaning up before sitting with their Connect Crews. A Connect Crew is a smaller group of kids with one Crew Guide.

## Sing & Play

### Welcome

Hello! I've been waiting all week to see your smiling faces again. I'm so happy to see you. Let's sing our welcome song.

 **"Hello, My Friends"** (*Music CD track 2*)

Let's say hello to our Crew Guides. They're our go-to friends who are here to have fun and learn along with us.

- Kids give their Crew Guides a low-five.

### Bible Point

Today we'll discover that **God is patient**. Every time you hear the words **"God is patient,"** touch your chin, then move your arm forward like this (demonstrate) and say, **"Thanks, God!"** This motion is a way to say **"thank you"** in sign language. Let's try that together.

When we're patient, we're willing to wait without getting upset. Let's practice being patient and waiting. Do the following actions together.

- Be patient and wait for me to count to three. Then spin around three times.
- Be patient and wait for me to count to five. Then hold up five fingers and say, "Hey, hey, hooray!"
- Be patient and wait for me to count to 10. Then jump up and down!

Repetition cements learning, so be sure to say today's Bible Point A LOT. Have fun with it! Kids will love listening for it and responding with **"Thanks, God!"**

### Supplies

- Bible
- *Music CD*
  - "Hello, My Friends"
- *Music Video DVD*
  - "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" music video
  - "All That Is Good" music video
- *Buddy Video DVD*
  - Moe Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 1)
- media player
- Moe Bible Memory Buddy poster

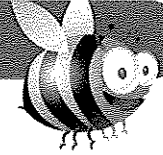


Thanks, God!

You were patient and waited for me to count. Great job. **God is patient.**  
(Thanks, God!) While we wait, we can lean on him. Let's sing about that!



"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" music video



## Bible Memory Buddy & Verse

It's time to talk to our friend Buzzy Bee. Buzzy will introduce us to a Bible Memory Buddy friend. Let's call for Buzzy. Do what I do!

- Flap hands quickly like a bee.
- Make buzzing sounds.



Moe Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 1)

Our friend Moe the sloth moves pretty *sloooowly*. He reminds us that **God is patient.** (Thanks, God!)

- Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster.
- Remind kids that sloths move slowly.
- Have kids slowly stand up, slowly spin in a circle, then slowly sit down.

Moe told us our Bible Memory Verse. Let's say it together now. Don't worry, we'll go nice and slow.



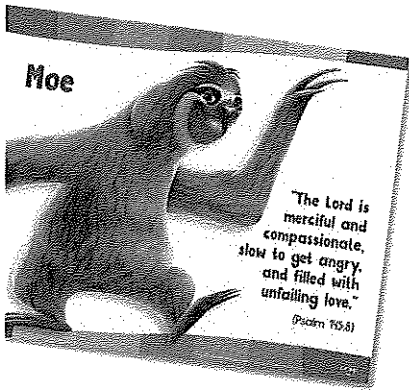
Show the Bible. **The Bible is God's true story of love! Our Bible Memory Verse comes from the Bible. Let's say it together. I'll say a line, and then you repeat after me.**

"The Lord is merciful (*extend one arm*)  
and compassionate, (*extend other arm*)  
slow to get angry (*slowly move palms down*)  
and filled with unfailing love." (*move arms up*)  
(Psalm 145:8)

God is filled with love for you! When we say God is merciful, we're remembering that God forgives us when we make wrong choices. God is so good, and **God is patient.** (Thanks, God!) Let's sing about God's goodness.



"All That Is Good" music video



Repeat, repeat! Feel free to do activities more than once. You'll give kids time to catch on and jump in.

# Bible Discovery

**God is patient.** (*Thanks, God!*) Hold up a Bible. **Today our Bible story tells how God's people, the Israelites, really needed a leader. They kept getting into trouble, and they needed someone to remind them to love and obey God.**

- Get comfy and sit in knee-to-knee circles with Connect Crews.
- **Who is a leader that helps you love and obey God?** Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

**Leaders show us what to do. I'll be your Leader. Watch and listen to what I do, then you'll join me and do it, too.**

Sing to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

**God is patient; God is kind.** (*point up with both hands*)

**God will help us every time.** (*hold hands over heart*)

**God will give us leaders who** (*hands on hips*)

**Help us love God and be true.** (*thumbs-up*)

**God is patient; God is kind.** (*point up with both hands*)

**God will help us every time.** (*hold hands over heart*)


**Now follow me and sing along.** Sing again line by line, inviting everyone to repeat after you.

**Thank you for following me, your Leader. I helped you know what to do, and I told you about our wonderful God!**

**In the Bible, God's people, the Israelites, had a leader named Joshua. Joshua was a good leader, and he helped the people move into a new land that God had promised to give them. Let's move to a new place in our room.**

- Have everyone stand up and relocate to a different place in your room.
- Make your new area cozy with blankets to sit on and a few pillows.
- **Hooray! We're here in our new home! It's pretty cozy!**
- Have everyone cheer and shout, "Thanks, God!"

**Ahh! We're all settled. God's people were settled into their new land, too. Let's read what life was like for them.**


 Read aloud Judges 2:7.

## Supplies

- Bible
- "Israel Needs a Leader" Bible Story poster
- blankets and pillows

**We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply gather kids in a cozy circle around you. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!**

**Not much of a singer? That's okay! Simply say—or rap—the rhyme instead!**

 **Read the verses from the Bible. You're showing kids that God's Word is special. And don't worry; we've kept the verses short for young attention spans.**

**The Lord is another name for God. The Israelites served the Lord while Joshua was their leader. Years passed, though, and Joshua wasn't there to lead them anymore. Have everyone wave and say, "Bye, Joshua."**

**After Joshua was gone, God's people didn't have a leader anymore. As children grew up, no one told them about God. No one helped them love and obey God. In fact, when they got to be grown-ups, they didn't remember God at all. They disobeyed God's rules.**

- **God had told them to worship only God, but they didn't. They worshipped fake gods.** Have everyone place their hands on their cheeks and say "Uh-oh!"
- **God had told them to put God first, but they didn't. They did whatever they wanted to do. They put themselves first.** Once again, have everyone place their hands on their cheeks and say "Uh-oh!"

**Bad things happened because of their wrong choices. Mean people came to the new land and hurt God's people. The land wasn't so cozy anymore.**

- Work together to make your cozy spot messy.
- Then take away the blankets and pillows.

**God was frustrated and upset with his people. They didn't remember to love and obey their one, true God. Let's talk in our Crews.**

- Circle up in knee-to-knee circles.
- 🗣️ **When has a parent or leader you know been frustrated?**
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

**Mom, dads, and teachers get frustrated sometimes. Sometimes they're frustrated with us! But they still love us and patiently help us make better choices. God is patient, too. (Thanks, God) Like a loving parent, his love doesn't go away, even when we disobey. Let's sing our "God Is Patient" song again. You go ahead and sing it without me this time. Sit down away from the kids. Wait for a bit as they struggle to remember the words and sing together.**

**Chuckle. Sounds like you need a leader. I'm here! Let's try this. I'll sing one line, and you sing it back to me. We'll go through the song together line by line.**

Sing to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

**God is patient; God is kind.** (point up with both hands)

**God will help us every time.** (hold hands over heart)

**God will give us leaders who** (hands on hips)

**Help us love God and be true.** (thumbs-up)

**God is patient; God is kind.** (point up with both hands)

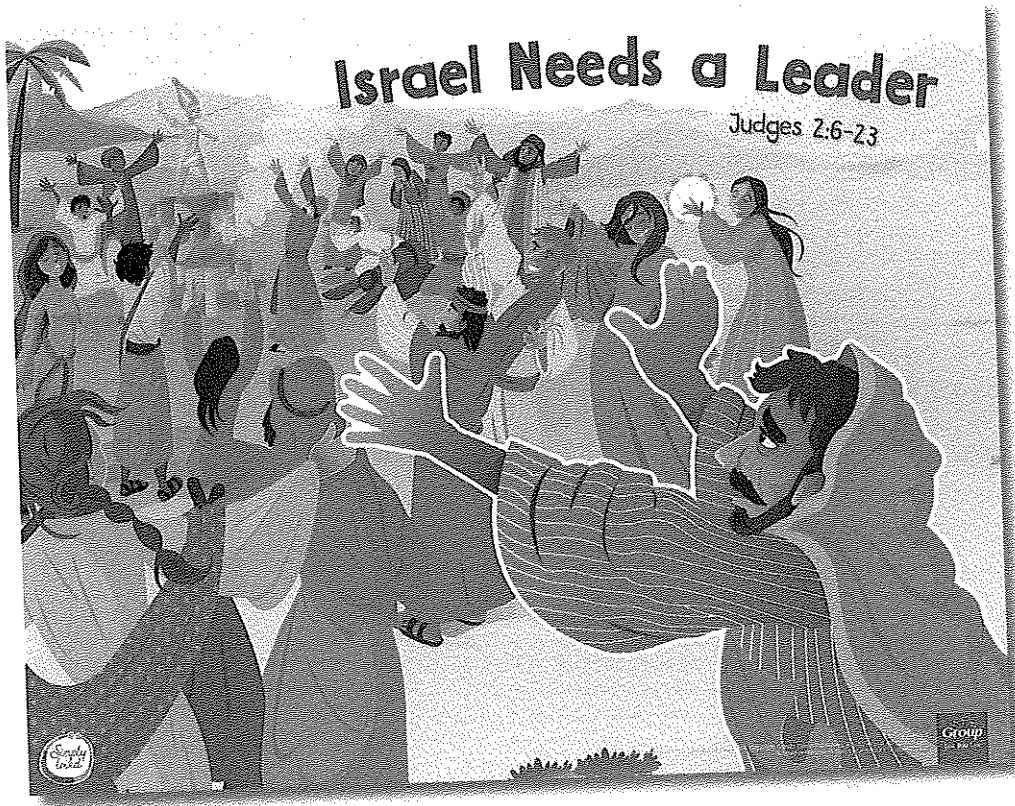
**God will help us every time.** (hold hands over heart)

- 🗣️ **Was it easier to sing with me or without me? Why?** Invite several responses from the whole group.

**Like it was easier to sing *with* me, it was easier for God's people to love and obey God when they had a leader.**

**God is patient. (Thanks, God!) God raised up leaders to help his people love and obey him. Those leaders were called judges.**

- Show the Bible Story poster.
- Point out the man holding up his hands to tell the people to stop worshipping fake gods.
- Have kids hold up their hands and say "Stop!"



**Judges helped people stop making wrong choices and start making right choices. Let's be judges and decide what's right and wrong. Do what I do!**

- **Worshipping fake gods was wrong.** Give thumbs-down.
- **Worshipping the one, true God was right!** Jump up and give thumbs-up.
- **Following all the naughty people around them was bad.** Sit down with thumbs-down.
- **But following God and the judges he sent was good!** Jump up and give thumbs-up.

**Let's read about the judges God sent to lead his people.**



Read aloud Judges 2:18-19.

Place hands on cheeks. **Uh-oh. It's like God's people loved and obeyed him when a judge was watching, but when the judge went away, they made wrong choices and disobeyed.**

**Sometimes we do that, too. When Mom or Dad or our teachers are near, we obey! But when they aren't watching, we might hit or eat extra candy or say mean things. Our grown-ups aren't happy when they find out. But they still love us.**

Invite responses.  
Repeat what is said  
so you're sure to  
understand and so  
everyone can hear  
what's said.

❓ **Why do grown-ups still love us, no matter what we do?** Invite responses from the whole group.

**They still love us because we're their kids! And God still loved his kids, too. God is patient. (Thanks, God!)**

**God knew it was hard for the Israelites to obey, and he didn't give up on them. So he sent judges to lead God's people for a long time. Things were sometimes good, and a lot of times things were bad. But God never went away. God never leaves us, either! God is patient. (Thanks, God!) Follow me, and let's sing our song one more time! I'll sing first, then you join me!**

**God is patient; God is kind. (point up with both hands)**

**God will help us every time. (hold hands over heart)**

**God will give us leaders who (hands on hips)**

**Help us love God and be true. (thumbs-up)**

**God is patient; God is kind. (point up with both hands)**

**God will help us every time. (hold hands over heart)**

**God is patient. (Thanks, God!)**



Now's a great time for Apply-It Options.  
Choose one or more that fit your time frame  
to support today's Bible discoveries before  
the closing Goodbye Circle.

# Apply-It Options

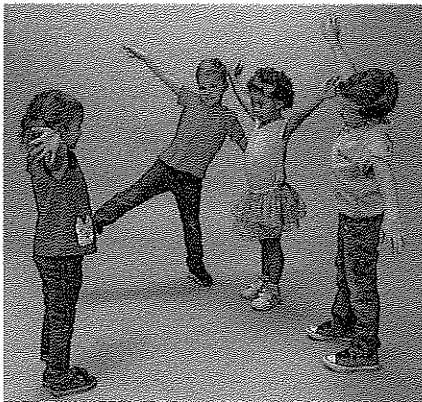
Choose one—or all—of these activities to support kids' learning after Bible Discovery.

## Game

Play "The Judge Says"  
(like Simon Says).

- Choose someone to be the Judge.
- The Judge will say actions for everyone to follow. When he or she first says "The Judge Says," everyone should do the actions given. But if the Judge doesn't begin with "The Judge Says," everyone refrains from doing the action.
- Choose new Judges as time allows.

**In our Bible story, God sent judges to be leaders and tell his people what do to. When a judge wasn't there, people didn't listen to God very well. But God is patient. (Thanks, God!) Even when the people disobeyed, God loved them and didn't leave them.**



## Food-n-Friendship

**Supplies:** snack, napkins, hand cleanser, *Music CD*, media player

- Give a napkin to a friend and say, **"God is patient."** (*Thanks, God!*)

 **"God, You Are So Good"**  
(*Music CD track 3*)

- Eat snack together.
- **When we pray, we talk with God. Who has something we can talk with God about?**
- Pray together.

**God is patient. (Thanks, God!) Thanks for being patient as you waited for everyone to finish their snack. Let's clean up!**



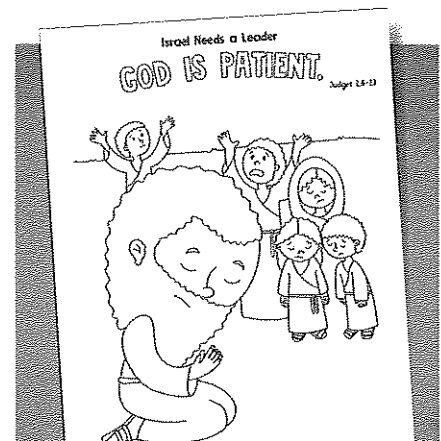
## Coloring Creation

**Supplies:** "Israel Needs a Leader" Coloring Creation pages (1 per child), crayons, small cups of water, *Music CD*, media player

**When God's people disobeyed, there were consequences. Realizing our wrong choices can make us sad. We may even cry. But God is patient. (Thanks, God!) We can tell him we're sorry, and he'll help us love and obey him more.**

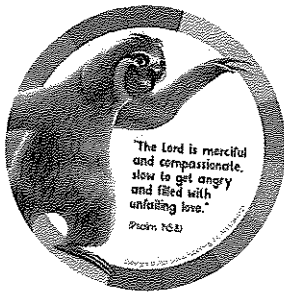
- Color the picture.
- Dip fingers into the water and drip a few drops onto the paper to show people's tears.
- Play music as kids create.

 **"The Lord Is Merciful"**  
(*Psalm 145:8*)  
(*Music CD track 5*)



## Supplies

- Music CD
  - “Goodbye, My Friends”
  - “The Lord Is Merciful” (Psalm 145:8)
- media player
- Moe Bible Memory Buddy stickers (1 per child)



# Goodbye Circle

It's almost time to say goodbye! Let's sing our goodbye song as we join hands and make one big circle!



“Goodbye, My Friends” (Music CD track 4)

**God is patient.** (Thanks, God!) In our Bible story, God sent judges to help his people love and obey him more. Later in God's story, he sent his only Son, Jesus, to be our forever friend. Jesus died on a cross so our wrong choices can be forgiven. Because of Jesus, we get to be close friends with God now and in heaven someday! I'm so glad **God is patient.** (Thanks, God!)

Speaking of being patient, remember Moe? Our *sloooow* buddy, Moe, reminds us that **God is patient.** (Thanks, God!)

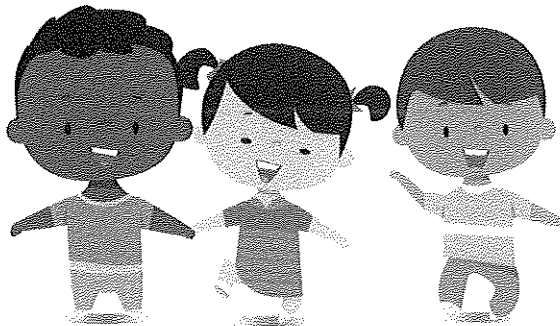
- Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster, and remind kids that Moe helps us remember **God is patient.** (Thanks, God!)
- Invite Crew Guides to give each child a Moe sticker to wear or take home. Have kids place their hands on their cheeks and say “Uh-oh!” Crew Guides will go to each child, look him or her in the eye and say, “It's okay. **God is patient with you,** [child's name].”



“The Lord Is Merciful” (Psalm 145:8) (Music CD track 5)

- Do Bible Memory Verse motions and move to the music!

Saying each child's name in a loving way helps kids simply experience God's love through you!





Israel Needs a Leader

# GOD IS PATIENT.

Judges 2:6-23



**“The Lord is merciful and  
compassionate, slow to get angry  
and filled with unfailing love.”**

(Psalm 145:8)

Moe

