

Living by Faith

Theme: Eye on the Sky

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Join us on our Facebook group. Interact with editors and Sunday school teachers. Post pictures of your class. Brag on what God is doing in your class. You teach with us; now interact with us. Check out our group, "Word Aflame Kindergarten Curriculum Teachers."

NOTE: Before posting pictures of children, be sure to get parental permission.



Kindergarten Teacher's Manual
Manufactured in U.S.A., March 2019 1131911
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36 Research Park Court, Weldon Spring, MO 63304

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All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version unless otherwise noted.


THEME DEVELOPMENT

Eye on the Sky

Consider the amount of faith an astronaut exhibits by entering a space shuttle and beginning a voyage into the uncharted vastness of space. Also consider the amount of faith the early church exhibited as they stepped into the uncharted vastness of the unsaved world. Just as space pioneers boldly go where no man has gone before, the early church committed to going where no gospel had been preached. The church continues that same mission today—knowing that the impossible becomes possible through faith.

Explaining Our Acronyms and Symbols

(TRP) = Teacher's Resource Packet

 = Downloadable resource using code on TRP instruction sheet

(AP) = Activity Paper

BP = Bible Point

MV = Memory Verse

KiM = Kids in Missions

SMP = Special Memory Passage

As you customize your lessons, prepare the room with fun, space visuals. Think space center bulletin boards where stars and planets shine. Plan a corner for your spaceship and be sure to prepare an area for mission control. Astronauts, telescopes, and shooting stars will fill the walls while faith fills your students' hearts. Keep your eye on the sky and allow your faith to rise—God is about to do the impossible!



Dramatic Play Suggestions

- Different sized and textured balls
- Globes
- Hoops
- Solar system cutouts or inflatables
- Hula-Hoops
- Moon rocks and moon sand
- Moon boots
- Space or shuttle sound bites

Visit <https://www.nasa.gov/connect/sounds/> for audio and ringtones from historical space moments.

Room Decoration

Attach the door poster **(TRP)** and invite students to an exciting space adventure.


The suggested wall-decorating ideas can be adapted for any size classroom. Decorations can be basic or detailed and three-dimensional. Sizes can be reduced to fit bulletin boards. Select the best designs for your situation.

Keep all important items for interaction and teaching at students' eye level. Anything above the student should simply be used for decoration. Along the walls, place boxes of props for dramatic play opportunities (suggestions in margin). Encourage students who arrive early to explore the interactive areas in imaginary play.

Teaching Wall 1: Outer Space Wall

Space is big, but God is bigger! Space highlights the Lord's creativity and is fascinating to Kindergartners. Create a space scene on this wall. Cover the wall with a black or dark blue plastic tablecloth or art paper. Place a writing board in the center of the wall for teaching lessons.

Make this wall an interactive attendance activity. Number the thirteen space images (planets, stars, comets, etc.) across the wall. Provide each student with a spaceship cutout. Students write their names on the spaceships and move their ships to a new image each week. If space permits, mount student attendance charts at eye level.

Use the theme art  or purchase solar system cutouts to place in orbit along the wall. To make 3-D planets, cut Styrofoam balls in half and spray paint each to represent specific planets. Attach with double-sided tape.

Looking Ahead

Check all your lesson title pages now to see what supplies need to be gathered. Designate what activities require multiple copies, cutouts, or unusual supplies. Recruit volunteers to help with drawing, copying, or cutting.

- The Special Memory Passage and lesson 10 focus on the armor of God. We suggest you order several sets of play armor for interactive learning.
- Always create a sample of every craft activity.
- Always practice object lessons well before class to make sure your methods provide the desired result.

Before the quarter begins, tear apart the activity papers and sort the papers by lesson for easier distribution each week. Set apart the title pages to send home with students at the beginning of the quarter. This provides families with a copy of the unit memory posters for at-home study. Order one activity paper per student with a few extras for visitors and for growth.

Stars are a major part of this theme. Purchase stars of various sizes and colors to use as prizes (stick to clothing) or awards on their activity papers.

Avoid a Panic Attack!

If you occasionally loan out your teacher's manual or accidentally leave it at church, don't panic. Before the quarter begins, follow the process on page 2 to download the entire manual to your electronic device. You can check supplies, study, and focus your prayers with a few simple clicks on your device.

NOTE: Some smartphones will not open zip files but will open PDFs. Save the zip files to your computer and then send the PDF to your phone.

Teaching Wall 2: Faith Walk Wall

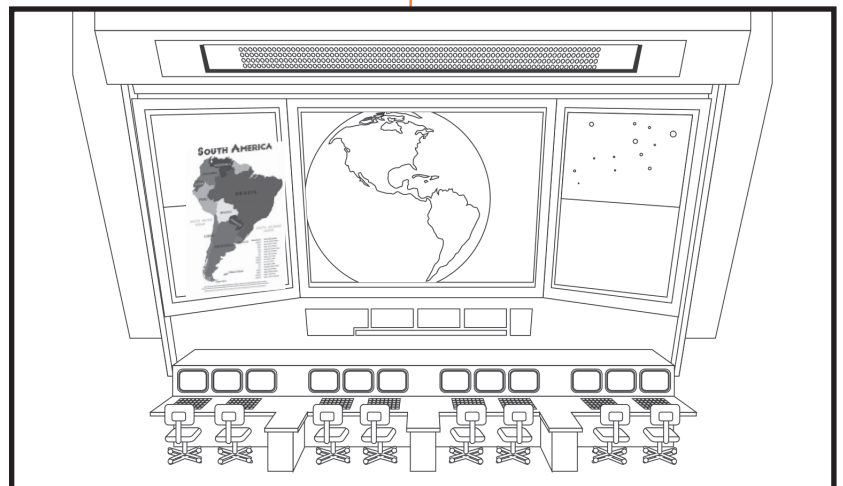
Traveling to the moon seemed impossible, but one man took one small step and it became a giant leap for humanity. Through faith, the mission was accomplished. Cover this wall with dark paper or a purchased moonscape scene. Add a large cutout of earth in the distance and an astronaut or space rover in the forefront. Display the New Birth poster (TRP) and refer to it weekly.

Add a 3-D element by purchasing an inflatable rocket to hang from the ceiling. Along the floor, place moon rocks (random, various-sized rocks painted gray or brown colors).



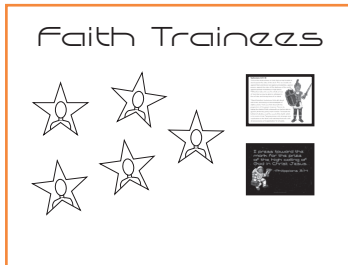
Teaching Wall 3: Mission Control Wall

Flight controllers monitor various aspects of a space mission. They are experts at communication, engineering, and navigation. Their goal is to ensure the success and safety of the mission. To become experts in this faith walk, we must fine-tune our communication skills with Jesus. He must control the mission and guide us to Heaven.



The Mission Control Center displays active mission areas. Divide this wall into two screens. Place a world map on one side and indicate your location with a sticker or star. Mount the *Kids in Missions* map (TRP) on the opposite side and focus on the missions that are occurring across the world. Encourage students to be a part of the mission by praying for each other, the missionaries, and the country of South America.

To create a 3-D center, place a desk against the wall. Add an old computer, keyboards, and headphones. Make a control panel by gluing various colored bottle caps to a piece of cardboard. Make this an interactive wall by writing names or prayer requests on each bottle cap and allowing students to touch each cap while praying.



Remember to change the unit MV poster when the new unit begins.



Teaching Wall 4: Faith Trainees Wall

The space program requires hours of interactive training to produce knowledgeable astronauts and support teams. Faith requires interactive training in God's Word.

Label this wall, "Faith Trainees." Mount large star cutouts across the wall with a student's picture on each star. Mount the unit MV poster (TRP) and the Special Memory Passage poster (TRP). If space permits, mount students' memory charts (AP) on the wall. Make this an interactive memory wall by adding extra stars that show the unit verse words (one per star). While reciting the words, students touch the corresponding star.

Additional Bulletin Board Ideas

Faith Keeps Our Eye on the Sky

Mount the bulletin board poster (TRP). Allow each student to decorate a planet shape and mount it around the shuttle.

MISSION POSSIBLE!

Using the theme art letters (AP), cut out and mount large letters spelling MISSION POSSIBLE. Around the letters, mount pictures showing your students and church congregation at work for God's kingdom.

Black-Hole Offering Box

Cover a shoe box in black paper. Stand it up on end and cut a hole in the top half of the lid. On the inside of the lid, tape strips of black garbage bag. Students reach into the black hole to place their offering in the orbit of God's kingdom.

Volunteer Space Controllers



Purchase neon Ping-Pong balls to represent planets. Label each with a student's name and place the balls in a bag. When a volunteer is needed, select one planet from the bag and use that student as a helper. Place the balls back in the bag after all students have an opportunity to help.

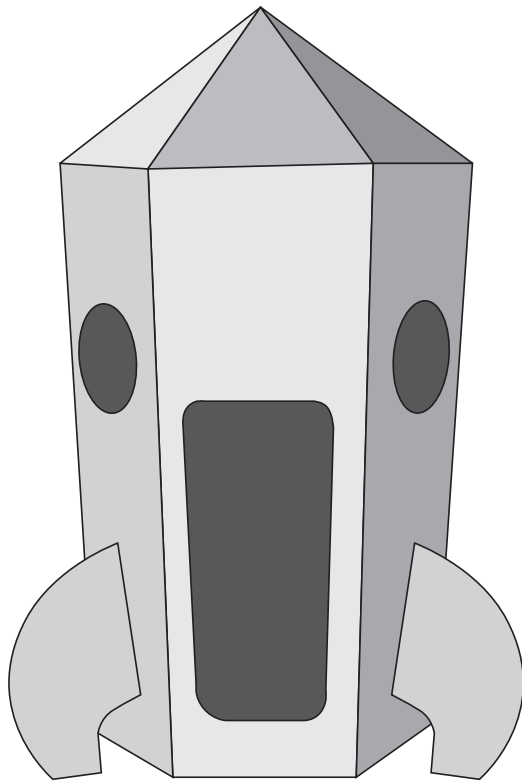
Additional Space Center Ideas

- Party supply stores offer fun, space props—spaceship favor boxes, solar system cutouts, inflatable spaceships and rockets.
- Consider serving space-food snacks: rocket kabobs made of fruit chunks; cosmic brownies and Goldfish Space Adventure crackers; star constellations made from miniature marshmallows and pretzel sticks.
- Create a space ship from an appliance box. Cut triangles from cardboard or posterboard for the rocket fins. Form red posterboard into a cone for the top. Add colored tissue paper at the bottom to represent flames.

Facebook

Join our Facebook group, “Word Aflame Kindergarten Curriculum Teachers.” Interact with editors and Sunday school teachers. Share tips and gather ideas. Post pictures of your class (with parental permission) and encourage others by posting what God is doing in your students’ lives.

Note: Before posting pictures of students, get parental permission using the model release form  or child information form .



GOD WORKS THROUGH US



CORE SUPPLIES

Excite and Engage

Welcome: Play the space sounds (📎) on a loop as students enter. Visit the public library for picture books of astronauts in training or print the Astronauts in Training photos (📎).

Attendance charts (AP) (📎), markers, glue, cotton balls, black-hole offering box

Opening Activity: Make a sample set of craft-stick puppets. For every 2–3 students, copy the Paul’s Nephew story faces (TRP) (📎).

Craft sticks, tape; *optional:* background scenes (TRP) (📎), crayons

Relate and Receive

Bible Lesson: Background scenes (TRP) (1 set per 2–3 students), craft-stick puppets from Opening Activity, tape, Bible

Apply and Act

Life Application: Bible Art: Paul’s Nephew (TRP) (📎), paper plates (1 per student), markers or crayons

Prayer and Call to Action: Paper-plate faces from Life Application

Home Connection: Unit 1 Home Connection calendar (TRP) (📎), lesson 1 Home Connection devotion (📎), child information forms (📎)

EXPANDED SUPPLIES

Worship and the Word

Worship: *Suggested songs:* “Use Me” by Ron Kenoly, “Lord, I Give You My Heart” by Hillsong
Activity papers (page 1), crayons

Memory Work: Unit 1 MV poster (TRP), memory charts (AP) (📎), star stickers (TRP) (📎), indoor mini basketball hoop and ball

Reinforce and Review

Activity Paper: Activity papers (page 2), crayons

Option 1: Copy and cut apart two Paul’s Nephew Bible art puzzles (📎). Place each puzzle in a separate bag. Remove one piece from each puzzle and place out of view of students.

Option 2: Purchase space-themed self-adhesive, foam shapes. For each student, copy the Astronaut Life Application handout (📎).

Option 3: Copy the Global Missions cards (📎) highlighting South America, at least 1 card per student. Print the *KiM* handout (📎) to send home with students.
Kids in Missions map (TRP) (📎)

Items marked with (TRP) can be found in the teacher’s resource packet. Items marked with (📎) can be downloaded by following the instructions on the cover sheet in the teacher’s resource packet. Items marked with (AP) can be found in the activity paper.

Unit 1

Paul’s Testimony

Unit Aim

Students will determine and share their personal testimonies.

Unit Bible Verse

Philippians 3:14

Scripture Text

Acts 23:11–24

Bible Lesson Verse

Acts 23:11

Bible Point

God uses us to complete His plan.

Life Application

I will work for God.

Teacher Devotional

Read Acts 23:11–24. Prayerfully consider what this passage says:

About God

Throughout Scripture, does God only use spiritual superheroes like Elijah, Peter, and Paul? Consider the unnamed servant girl who directed Naaman to the prophet Elisha. How about the unnamed boy who brought the loaves and fishes? When God has a plan, He uses anyone who is willing, be they superhero or civilian.

To You as a Teacher

It is easy to assume the biblical men and women who were active in God’s work fell into their greatness. Yet nearly every story proves otherwise. Joseph was given a dream, but he had to work to fulfill it. Paul had to earn his learning before God could put it to even greater use. Abraham’s story seems full of only highlights until you realize there are years of faithfulness in between most chapters. People are not preordained; rather, they chose to do God’s work.

To Your Students

A father installed a basketball hoop beside the driveway. He envisioned many exciting father-son games, but after several games his son lost interest. The dad was puzzled until he realized he had set the goal too high. He lowered it so the little boy could, with some stretching, make a basket. Soon his son was begging, “One more game, Dad, please.” As the child grew, the basket was raised.

Bottom line: Set reasonable goals that will stretch your students, but not discourage them. That is what our heavenly Father does for us.

CORE *(designed for a teaching period around 45 minutes)*

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Welcome

A new quarter is exciting! As students arrive, greet them with a smile and a kind word. Allow them to explore the room as space sounds 🎧 resonate. Show them the black-hole offering box and explain how it relates to space. Collect the offering.

Distribute attendance charts (AP) 📄 and write students’ names on the charts before attaching them to the wall. Students glue one cloud (a cotton ball) on their charts.

Astronauts are brave. They travel to outer space. Only a few people in the world will ever travel to space. Imagine what an astronaut must do to plan for a trip to space.

Discuss the plan (training, food, learning to work with other astronauts, the space shuttle, and so on).

Show pictures of astronauts in training 📺. **The astronaut has help with his plan. Trainers, flight controllers, and computer techs help. Everyone on the team is important. Each person has a job to do.** Compare this example to God’s kingdom.

God’s plan is to work through us. Introduce the Bible Point: **God uses us to complete His plan.** Instruct students to point to themselves and say the Life Application: **I will work for God.**



Opening Activity: Preparing Puppets

Show your sample set of craft-stick puppets. Distribute the Paul's Nephew story faces (TRP) 📄, craft sticks, and tape. Help each student make one or more craft-stick puppets by taping a face to a stick.

- What are some ways God might use us in His work?

Ask students to demonstrate these ideas with the puppets.

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Access Prior Experience:

- Which chores can you do best?
- Name your favorite way to help someone.
- What tasks are you given to do every day?

Bible Lesson: God Works through Us (Paul's Nephew)

In the story area, gather students into groups of two or three. Give each group a set of craft-stick puppets and background scenes (TRP) 📄. Students should act out the lesson as it is being taught.

Show the Book of Acts in a Bible. **Paul was a missionary. He worked for God and told people about Jesus.**

- What kind of work do you think Paul did for God?

Outdoor scene / Paul: Paul wanted everyone to go to Heaven, so he preached the gospel—that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again. He preached that people must repent, be baptized in Jesus' name, and receive the Holy Ghost to be saved.

Jewish leaders hated Paul because he preached about Jesus. He was arrested and placed in prison.

- Do you think God could work through Paul when he was in prison?

God planned to use Paul to reach other people. God could use Paul on the streets, in the temples, in houses, and yes, even in prison.

Prison scene / Paul: That night, God spoke to Paul while he was in prison. He said, "Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome" (Acts 23:11).

As Paul waited in prison, his enemies made a plan to kill him.

Outdoor scene / Jewish Leaders / Nephew: Outside the prison, the Jewish leaders talked about their plans. They wanted the soldiers to bring Paul outside where they would attack Paul. Jewish leader puppets whisper phrases in different voices.

LEADER 1: Let's tell the captain we want to ask Paul questions.

LEADER 2: We will kill Paul when they bring him near us.

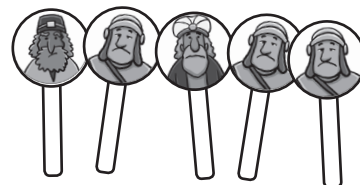
Paul's nephew heard them talking about their plan to kill Paul.

- What would you do if you were Paul's nephew and heard this terrible plan?



If you have time, consider printing the background scenes 📄 as coloring pages and let students color them for use during the Bible lesson.

Place the figures in the story area to use during the Bible lesson.



Bible Lesson Verse

"And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome" (Acts 23:11).



Prison scene / Paul / Nephew / Soldier: **The nephew hurried to visit his uncle in the castle's prison.**

NEPHEW: Uncle Paul! I need to tell you what I heard.

PAUL: What is it, nephew?

NEPHEW: I heard your enemies say they are planning to kill you.

PAUL: How will they do that?

NEPHEW: They will ask the soldiers to bring you outside to ask you questions. Then they plan to kill you.

Paul called for a soldier. He asked the soldier to take his nephew to the captain.

Captain's Office / Nephew / Soldier / Captain: **The captain listened carefully as Paul's nephew explained the plot to kill his uncle.**

CAPTAIN: Do not tell anyone what you heard.

Outdoor scene / Soldiers / Paul: **The captain sent 470 soldiers to guard Paul. They left in the middle of the night and took Paul to Rome. They kept him safe from his enemies.**

- **Think how God used Paul's nephew. What did the nephew do for God?**

Thank students for their help and allow each to take home a puppet.

APPLY AND ACT

Life Application: I will work for God.

Show the Bible art of Paul's Nephew (TRP) 📖. Distribute paper plates and markers (or crayons). Instruct students to draw their face on the plate. **These plates represent you and me.** Ask students to say, "I will work for God."

- **We can do God's work just as Paul did God's work.**
- **We can help God's work like Paul's nephew did.**

Just like God used Paul's nephew to save Paul, we can be used by God to do His work. I will work for God.

Ask students to think of a way they can do God's work. With their craft-stick puppets or paper-plate faces, have them act out what they are thinking as other students guess what they are doing.

Prayer and Call to Action

- **What is something you can do for Jesus right now as a young person?**

Ask students to kneel by their chairs and tell God the thing they know they can do for Him. Provide a starter sentence for them to repeat to Jesus. **"Jesus, I know I can work for You by _____."**

Ask students to stand and hold their plate faces at eye level. **God wants to use you now, while you are young.** Ask students to say, "I will work for God."

Next have students hold the plate faces above their heads. **He also wants to use you when you are a teenager.** Ask students to say, "I will work for God."

Then have students hold the plate faces as high as possible. **Jesus wants you to work for Him when you are a grown-up.** Ask students to say, “I will work for God.”

Hold your plate face high while we tell Jesus that we want Him to use us for His work. Lead an echo prayer:

Dear God, help me work for You now and guide my life as I grow. I want to be the best I can be for You.

Encourage students to pray in this fashion throughout the week.

Home Connection

- For each student, send home a copy of the unit 1 Home Connection calendar (TRP) 📄 and the lesson 1 devotion 📄, or point out the URL on page 2 of the activity paper to parents so they can download it themselves.
- Send home the cover of the activity paper, showing parents that the backside contains the memory work posters for the entire quarter.
- Use the child information forms 📄 to get contact information for parents. This will be used to establish a home connection throughout the quarter.

EXPANDED (designed for a teaching period over 45 minutes)

WORSHIP AND THE WORD

Worship

Distribute activity papers. **We can be used in God’s work. We must give Him our hearts and let Him work through us.** On the front page, students draw pictures of themselves in the heart. While singing, lift the papers to Jesus as a symbol of dedication to His work.

Suggested songs:

- “Use Me” by Ron Kenoly
- “Lord, I Give You My Heart” by Hillsong

Memory Work

Unit 1 Memory Verse: “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

Gather students at the unit 1 MV poster (TRP) and read the verse phrase by phrase with students echoing the words. Show the basketball hoop.

- **What is this and how is it used?**
- **Describe what basketball players do with the hoop.**

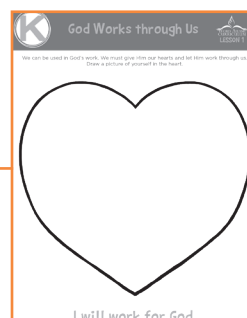
This verse is encouraging us to hit the mark for Jesus—just like a basketball player scores by getting the ball in the hoop. We want to please Jesus when He uses us in His work.

- **What are ways we can please Jesus?** *Obey, be kind, share, show love, and so on.*

Students line up in front of the hoop. Each student repeats the verse and shoots a basket. If the student scores, all students clap.

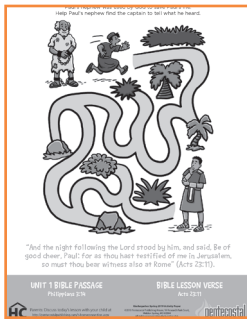
Assist students in writing their names on the memory charts (AP) 📄 and attaching them to the wall. Let each student put a star sticker (TRP) 📄 by the unit 1 verse.

An *echo prayer* is a valuable tool in teaching prayer to children. Lead in short phrases and pause while students repeat the prayer.



The unit MV posters are printed on the backside of the AP cover. Send this cover page home with parents the first week so families can study the unit memory posters throughout the quarter.

The Special Memory Passage, Ephesians 6:11–18, will be introduced next week. This passage—and lesson 10—focus on the armor of God. We suggest you order several sets of play armor for interactive learning. **15**



REINFORCE AND REVIEW

Activity Paper

On the back of the activity paper, students help Paul's nephew find the Roman captain. Discuss how God used the nephew to save Paul.

Did You Know?

After accounting for all maintenance and supply expenses, it costs a church more to make boring gray-scale copies of the activity paper than it does to buy a full-color activity paper for each student? Churches may think they are saving money by buying one activity paper and making copies, but in reality it is costing them more.


Not to mention that copying the activity paper violates copyright laws. Permission is only granted to make copies for visitors. Avoid the need to copy. Order extras to allow for class growth and a few visitors.

Option 1: The Missing Piece




Form two teams. Give each team a puzzle and challenge them to race to put it together. When students realize a piece is missing, offer it.

God uses us to complete His plan. Just as you were not able to complete this puzzle without me, so also God needs you to complete His plan. He wants to work through you. Ask students to say, "I will work for God."

Option 2: Life App Craft

Distribute the Astronaut Life Application handout  and allow students to decorate it with foam letters and shapes. Review ways God can use us in His plan. Lead students in saying, "I will work for God."

Option 3: Kids in Missions

Gather students at the *Kids in Missions* map . Introduce the missionaries for that region. Give each child a Global Missions card  and a *KiM* handout  to take home. Encourage students to pray for the missionaries on their cards.