

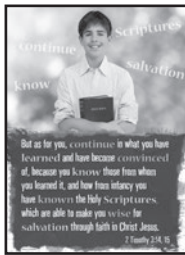
Unit 1

God Prepares for Salvation

Bible Memory

2 Timothy 3:14, 15

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”



Bible Skills

Bible skills are intentionally integrated into each lesson. You'll help preteens learn how to use their Bibles so they are immersed in God's Word.

Look for this symbol throughout the teacher guide to identify activities that work well for all kids, including those with special needs. Additional helps for teaching kids with special needs can be found on the *Resources* CD and at www.21stcc.com.



Note

Because units 1 and 2 this quarter feature a seven-week overview of the Bible, no specific Scripture texts are printed on the *Resources* CD printable files for lessons 1-7. Students will be encouraged to find and read a variety of Scripture passages throughout the lessons. Be sure to have classroom Bibles available.

Lesson	Scripture	Focus
Lesson 1 Look at the Book	Introduction to Bible Chronology	♥ God's plan of salvation is for everyone.
Lesson 2 Creation & the Fall; Patriarchs	Genesis	♥ God prepared for salvation.
Lesson 3 Exodus & Conquest; Judges	Exodus-1 Samuel 9	♥ God's plan of salvation includes repentance and forgiveness.
Lesson 4 Kings & Prophets; Exile and Return	1 Samuel 10-Malachi	♥ Study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation.

Immerse Materials for Unit 1

PreTeen Activities

Lessons 1-4

PreTeen Resources

Visuals

Sheets 1-4—Bible Time Lines

Sheet 5—2 Timothy 3:14, 15 Bible Memory Poster

CD

Printable Files

Concordance Connection, lesson 1

Cycle of the Judges, lesson 3

HIS Story, lesson 1

King James Version Bible Memory, unit 1

Optional Bible Skill Builders, lessons 1-4

People and Events Cards, lesson 4

Run Through the Bible

Sample Bible Concordance, lesson 1

Special Needs Helps (see CD Contents for complete list of files)

Symbol Snacks, lesson 2

Teacher Helps (see CD Contents for complete list of files)

The Missing Piece, lesson 4

The Old Testament Eras, lesson 4

Unlocking the Key Word, lesson 2

Your Choice!, lesson 2

Your Choice!, lesson 3

Who Am I?, lesson 3

Who Am I?, lesson 4

Live Wire student magazine

Issues 1-4

Additional Activities for Unit 1

Offer these activities for early arrivers, for preteens who finish activities quickly, or whenever there is extra time.

Unit Service Project—Salvation for All

Talk to people in your congregation who are connected to missions, or contact a mission/missionary to obtain information and pictures about two or three of them. These might be local missions or ones that are on the other side of the world. Share the information you have gathered, and ask students to choose one mission to support as a class. (Students may enjoy corresponding with a missionary family who has preteens or younger kids.) Emphasize that through their project, students will be helping people learn about God’s plan for salvation. Discuss a specific project you can do to help the selected mission. Also encourage preteens to pray for specific needs of the mission. Be sure to follow through on the plans.

A Look at the Book—The Big Picture

Preteens (and adults) need to understand that God’s Word is not just a set of randomly put-together books. It’s a picture of how God prepared for our salvation, sent a means of salvation, and now offers salvation to everyone. In units 1 and 2, you’ll have the opportunity to help preteens see that big picture. Make this a fun unit of learning. Read the *Resources* CD Teacher Helps/Run Through the Bible printable file for some fun ideas.

Pray for Me

Make copies of the *Resources* CD Prayer Request Cards. When students have private requests they would like you to pray about, they can write them on the “Dear teacher” request cards and place them in a box labeled “Prayer Requests for the Teacher.” When students have requests they would like their classmates to pray about, they can write them on the “Dear friends” request cards for you to share during your prayer time.

Optional Bible Skill Builders

Use the Optional Bible Skill Builder activities provided on the *Resources* CD whenever you have time—before, during, or at the end of your class time.

Tech Tip

You could let preteens go online to the selected mission’s website and find out information about the mission to present to the rest of the class. Students could e-mail the mission and ask what needs they have and what their prayer requests are. You could also set up a time to use Skype and let students experience talking face-to-face with people from the mission who are spreading God’s plan of salvation.

The image shows two overlapping prayer request cards. The top card is titled "Dear friends." and has a section for "Please pray for" with two lines of text and a "Thank!" line. The bottom card is titled "Dear teacher." and has a section for "Please pray for" with two lines of text and a "Thank!" line.

Look at the Book

Lesson 1



Scripture: Introduction to Bible Chronology










Bible Memory: 2 Timothy 3:14, 15

Focus: ♥ God's plan of salvation is for everyone.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

How reassuring to know that God planned for our salvation! As you prepare to teach preteens, take time to look at the big picture that God has painted for us with such love and care—a picture that lasts for eternity. Ponder how our amazing God continues to work His plan. Help preteens understand the depth of God's love and His desire that each of us be saved.

Lesson 1 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help students learn about the three stages of God's plan for salvation and the eight eras of Bible history.</p>	<p> Quick Step HIS Story</p> <p> Option A-Maze-ing</p>	<p>Immerse Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources sheets 1–4, HIS Story reproducible page • Resources sheets 1–4 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reusable adhesive, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, pencils • chairs and other furniture, reusable adhesive
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help students tell how Bible events fit into God's preparing for salvation, sending salvation, and offering salvation.</p>	<p> Bible Exploration Introduction to Bible Chronology</p> <p> Bible Memory 2 Timothy 3:14, 15</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for lesson 1, Resources sheets 1–4 • Resources sheet 5 • Resources CD Optional Bible Skills 1 printable file (see activity for other files needed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reusable adhesive, pencils • reusable adhesive, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles • Bible concordances, Bibles, pencils
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help students discover why God's plan revolves around His providing salvation for all people.</p>	<p> Quick Step Take a Deep Dive</p> <p> Option The Reason for the Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for lesson 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help students thank God for His plan of salvation.</p>	<p> Quick Step Just Pray</p> <p> Option Web of Thankfulness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources sheets 1–4, Activities for lesson 1 • Resources sheets 1–4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils • ball of yarn

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these activities to help students **learn about the three stages of God’s plan for salvation and the eight eras of Bible history.**

Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

Quick Step HIS Story

Before class, tear apart the Bible time lines, and display them in order in your room. Write on the board “history,” “His,” and “story.”

SAY: **History is His story, God’s story. From the beginning of time, God had a plan, one plan.** Draw students’ attention to the Bible time lines. **Look at the Bible time lines. God’s story begins with creation and continues throughout eternity.** Ask a volunteer to read what’s written at the bottom of each of the time lines.

ASK: **How would you describe God’s plan in one word or just a few words?** (salvation; God planned for salvation.)
What are the three stages of God’s plan for salvation? (God prepares for salvation. God sends salvation. God offers salvation.)

Have a volunteer read the large headings on each of the time lines. SAY: **These are the eight eras, or periods of time, of Bible history. Each era played a significant role in God’s preparing, sending, and offering salvation.** Distribute copies of the reproducible page. Let students work alone or with a partner to complete the page. When students are done, let volunteers share their answers.

Option A-Maze-ing

Before class, set up a maze in your classroom or in an open area. Use chairs, furniture, or other items. Tear apart the Bible time lines, and display them in order in your room.

Have preteens go through the maze and then sit down. SAY: **Sometimes the Bible might seem like a confusing maze, but the Bible has one theme. From the beginning of time, God had a plan, one plan.** Draw students’ attention to the Bible time lines. Ask a volunteer to read what’s written at the bottom of each of the time lines.

ASK: **How would you describe God’s plan in one word or just a few words?** (salvation; God planned for salvation.)
What are the three stages of God’s plan for salvation? (God prepares for salvation. God sends salvation. God offers salvation.)

Have a volunteer read the large headings on each of the time lines. SAY: **These are the eight eras, or periods of time, of Bible history. Each era played a significant role in God’s preparing, sending, and offering salvation. God’s plan for salvation continues today.**

Focus

♥ God’s plan of salvation is for everyone.

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4, reusable adhesive, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, copies of HIS Story reproducible page (1 per student), pencils



Note

See the teacher contents page for the location of reproducible pages. Reproducible pages are also provided on the *Resources* CD.

Materials

chairs and other furniture, *Resources* sheets 1-4, reusable adhesive



Be sure to either model or give clear guidelines to avoid having preteens climb on chairs to skip parts of the maze.

Focus

♥ God's plan of salvation is for everyone.

Explore His Word (25 minutes)

- 2** Use these activities to help students **tell how Bible events fit into God's preparing for salvation, sending salvation, and offering salvation.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

From the beginning, God had a plan for people's salvation. God told Satan, "I will put enmity between you and the woman. . . . He will crush your head" (Genesis 3:15). The Bible tells the history of how God prepared for people's salvation, how God sent His salvation through Jesus, and how God offers His salvation to all people.

The account of God's working through the Jewish nation is told in the Old Testament. God's prophets "searched intently" to "find out the time and circumstances" in which God's salvation would come (see 1 Peter 1:10-13). These great men of God understood that they would not see God's salvation in their lifetimes but that they were preparing for a future time—a time that has "now been told you by those who have preached the gospel."

The New Testament continues the account. When the time was ready, God sent salvation by sending His Son, Jesus (see Luke 2:29-32). Jesus came to earth, died for our sins, and rose from the dead. The Scriptures make it clear that there is only "one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus," and that God "wants all people to be saved" (see 1 Timothy 2:3-6).

After God's great work of salvation had been accomplished, God established His church. The disciples went out and "preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word" (Mark 16:15, 20; see also Hebrews 2:3, 4). The books of Acts through Revelation continue the telling of God's plan. Today the church's job is to continue telling the world about God's offer of salvation through Christ Jesus. Thank God that His plan of salvation is for everyone!

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4,
reusable adhesive,
Activities for lesson 1, pencils



Teaching Tip

If you have guests or students who might be uncomfortable in describing the illustrations, let preteens pair up. They can first talk together about how to describe the events and people. Then one preteen in each pair can describe it to the rest of the class.

Tech Tip

Preteens can go online to find video examples of how to do the signs.

Bible Exploration Introduction to Bible Chronology

Be sure you have the Bible time lines displayed in order in your room.

Distribute the leaflets, and ask students to turn to the activity God's Plan. SAY: **Look at the Bible time lines starting with Creation. Let's describe what or who each of the illustrations represents in God's plan for salvation. Raise your hand when you want to describe the next illustration. Tell a brief summary of what happened or who the person was. You can get some hints from the small icons under the illustrations.**

Encourage all students to participate and to be brief in their descriptions. Start with Creation. (Examples: God created everything. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and were kicked out of the garden. Noah obeyed God, and he and his family were not killed in the flood. When people tried to reach Heaven by building a tower in Babel, God caused them to speak different languages. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob led the Israelite nation to worship and obey God. Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt, but he obeyed God and became second in command, saving the Israelite nation from starvation.)

When preteens are done describing the illustrations, teach them sign language for these words: *prepare*, *send*, *offer*. *Prepare*—Hold both hands flat, palms up, hands about a foot apart. Both hands make one small circle.

Send—Left hand is flat, palm up. With right hand, use the fingertips to brush something off the left hand. *Offer*—Hold both hands flat, palms out, lifting them upward. Practice these signs with the students.

SAY: **Let's have a little fun to see if you can remember into which stage of God's plan some of the major events and people in the Bible fit. Try not to look at your leaflets or the Bible time lines on the wall, but you can if you need to.** Tell students that when you call out an event or person, they should do the sign for the stage of God's plan they think it falls under. Pause after each one for students to do a sign. SAY: **10 Commandments.** (prepares) **Tower of Babel.** (prepares) **Jesus' baptism.** (sends) **Philip and the Ethiopian.** (offers) **Jonah.** (prepares) **Joseph in Egypt.** (prepares) **Feeding 5,000.** (sends) **Queen Esther.** (prepares) **Lydia's conversion.** (offers) **Joshua.** (prepares) **Transfiguration.** (sends) **Paul and Silas in prison.** (offers) Call out more as time permits.

Then ask preteens to look again in their leaflets at the activity God's Plan and fill in the blanks. (prepares, sends, offers) SAY: **Events and people in Bible history are not random. The books of the Old Testament tell the account of one nation of people, the Jewish people, who were set apart to worship and serve God. God prepared this nation of people to be the people through whom Jesus would be born. The Gospels in the New Testament tell how God sent salvation when He sent Jesus to earth. The other New Testament books tell about the early church and how God offers His salvation to everyone. All the events in the Bible have their place in God's plan for our salvation, and the Bible clearly states that ♥ God's plan of salvation is for everyone. Let's discover why God's plan revolves around His providing salvation for all people.**

Bible Memory 2 Timothy 3:14, 15

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

Display the 2 Timothy 3:14, 15 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Write "2 Timothy 3:14, 15" on the board. Ask a volunteer to come to the board and tell what each part of the Scripture reference means. (2 Timothy is the name of the book; 3 is the chapter number; the colon separates the chapter and verse numbers; and 14, 15 are the verse numbers.) Have preteens find 2 Timothy 3:14, 15 in their Bibles, and ask a volunteer to read the verses aloud.

ASK: **Who wrote these verses and to whom?** (Paul, Timothy) If students aren't sure, have them read 2 Timothy 1:1, 2.

What do you think is the main thought in these verses? (that reading and studying the Scriptures is important; that the Scriptures can help us be wise, leading to salvation in Jesus)

SAY: ♥ **God's plan of salvation is for everyone, and His Word can lead us to salvation through Jesus. That's why Paul told Timothy to continue studying the Scriptures. And that's why reading, studying, and understanding God's Word is so important for us too!**

Materials

Resources sheet 5, reusable adhesive (or pushpins), whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles



Note

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources* CD.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print and use the *Resources* CD Optional Bible Skills 1 printable file.



Focus

♥ God's plan of salvation is for everyone.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help students **discover why God's plan revolves around His providing salvation for all people.**

Materials

Activities for lesson 1,
Bibles



Teaching Tip

If you have an uneven number of preteens, you can be someone's partner.

Quick Step Take a Deep Dive

Have preteens pair up and stand. SAY: **One person in each pair will draw on your partner's back. Using your finger, draw a mouth. You could draw the mouth of someone who's happy, sad, excited, nervous, afraid, surprised, or with some other expression. You can draw it two times. Then your partner must turn around and make that same face. If your partner makes the same face that you drew, raise your hand. If not, draw another face, and keep trying. Ready? Go!** When pairs are done, let them switch roles.

ASK: **What did this game revolve around?** (How well we drew and how well our partners could tell what we drew.)

SAY: **Let's discover what God's plan revolves around.** Have students look in their leaflets at the activity Take a Deep Dive. Have preteens pair up to complete the page. They should read the Bible verses and fill in the blanks. When everyone is done, have volunteers share their answers. (Answers: 1=loved, eternal; 2=Jesus, sins; 3=all, saved; 4=perish, repentance)

ASK: **Based on the Scriptures you read, how would you answer this question: Why does God's plan revolve around His providing salvation for all people?** (He loves us and wants everyone to be saved. He wants everyone to have eternal life with Him in Heaven.)

SAY: **God planned for our salvation because we're important to Him. Knowing that ♥ God's plan of salvation is for everyone helps us understand how much God loves us and wants each of us to be saved.**

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase
marker, Bibles



Teaching Tip

When dividing your class into groups, be creative. Divide into groups according to things such as the months in which students were born or the colors of clothing they are wearing.

Option The Reason for the Plan

Ask for several volunteers; you can use from three to nine students. Whisper to the volunteers that they are to form a circle with one of them standing in the middle. The others are to slowly circle the person in the middle and keep going until you tell them to stop. As the volunteers do this, ask the rest of the class what they are doing. If no one guesses correctly right away, give some hints. (Answer: They are pretending to be planets revolving around the sun.)

SAY: **We know that the earth revolves around the sun. Let's figure out what God's plan revolves around.** Write these Scriptures on the board: John 3:16; 1 John 4:9, 10; 1 Timothy 2:3, 4; 2 Peter 3:9. Divide the class into two groups, and assign each group two of the Scripture passages. **Read your verses. Then answer this question: Why does God's plan revolve around His providing salvation for all people?** When the groups are done, have them read their Scripture passages aloud and tell how they answered the question. **God planned for our salvation because we're important to Him. Knowing that ♥ God's plan of salvation is for everyone helps us understand how much God loves us and wants each of us to be saved.**

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help students **thank God for His plan of salvation.**

Focus

♥ God's plan of salvation is for everyone.

Quick Step Just Pray

Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **Just think—from the beginning, God had a plan. And that plan was all about you and me. God's plan of salvation wasn't just for people who lived in Bible times, such as Abraham, Moses, Daniel, or Peter.** Point to these people on the time lines. **And it's not just for us living today.** On the last time line, point to the space before the "Jesus will return" icon. ♥ **God's plan of salvation is for everyone. God's plan of salvation isn't just for people who live in a certain country or who are a certain race or who have a certain amount of money. ♥ God's plan of salvation is for everyone. And that includes you!**

ASK: **How does knowing that God planned for your salvation make you feel?** Accept responses.

Have students turn in their leaflets to the activity Just Pray. SAY: **Complete the first part of the prayer by thanking God for sending Jesus and for what Jesus did on the cross for us. Then complete the second part of the prayer by listing names of family, friends, and others you are glad that God's plan of salvation is for.** When preteens are done, tell them to take their leaflets and spread out as much as possible in your room. Encourage preteens to silently pray their prayers to God, thanking Him for His plan of salvation. When you sense that they are done praying, close in prayer.

Option Web of Thankfulness

Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **Just think—from the beginning, God had a plan. And that plan was all about you and me. God's plan of salvation wasn't just for people who lived in Bible times.** Ask students to call out some names of people pictured on the time lines. **And it's not just for us living today. ♥ God's plan of salvation is for everyone. God's plan of salvation isn't just for people who live in a certain country or who are a certain race or who have a certain amount of money. ♥ God's plan of salvation is for everyone. And that includes you!**

ASK: **How does knowing that God planned for your salvation make you feel?** Accept responses.

Ask students to stand and form a circle. While holding an end of the ball of yarn, toss it to a preteen. SAY: **Thank You, God, that You planned for ___'s (name of preteen) salvation.** Tell that preteen to hold an end and toss the ball to someone who has not yet had it. You say again: **Thank You, God, that You planned for ___'s (name of preteen) salvation.** Say the same thing for each person in the circle. When everyone is holding an end, close in prayer. **Dear God, we can't thank You enough that You loved us so much that you sent Your Son to die on the cross for our sins. Thank You that your plan of salvation is for everyone, including each of us. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4,
Activities for lesson 1,
pencils



Materials

Resources sheets 1-4, ball
of yarn



Some preteens may not have the fine-motor strength to hold their part of the web. If so, offer to wrap the yarn around their wrists.

Live Wire

Distribute *Live Wire* to students before they leave. They will enjoy the articles, puzzles, and other features included in this fun student magazine.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.21stcc.com.





Creation & the Fall; Patriarchs

Scripture: Genesis










Bible Memory: 2 Timothy 3:14, 15

Focus: ♥ God prepared for salvation.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Big events require lots of preparation. Think vacations and weddings, college funds and retirements. Business people spend lots of time preparing and planning, as do politicians and military leaders. But no one has ever prepared more than God did when He prepared for our salvation. Give Him thanks!

Lesson 2 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help students <i>learn about the Creation & the Fall and the Patriarchs eras.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Your Choice!</p> <p> Option Symbol Snacks</p>	<p>Immerse Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4, Your Choice! reproducible page • <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4, <i>Resources</i> CD Symbol Snacks printable file 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scissors, whiteboard, dry-erase marker • paper plates, napkins, toothpicks, bite-size fruit, gummy worms, animal-shaped cookies, pretzel rods, corn cereal
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help students <i>explain how God prepared for salvation during the Creation & the Fall and the Patriarchs eras.</i></p>	<p> Bible Exploration Genesis</p> <p> Bible Memory 2 Timothy 3:14, 15</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 2, <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4 • <i>Resources</i> sheet 5 • <i>Resources</i> CD Optional Bible Skills 2 printable file (see activity for other files needed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, paper, pencils, markers, reusable adhesive • Bibles • Bibles, pencils
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help students <i>discover why they need to know about the Creation & the Fall and the Patriarchs eras.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Hot or Cold</p> <p> Option Moving Closer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper, pencil • wax paper, toothpick, eye-dropper, water
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help students <i>commit to growing in their knowledge of God's Word and His plan.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Take the Challenge</p> <p> Option Commit to Grow</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4, <i>Activities</i> for lesson 2 • <i>Resources</i> sheets 1–4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1 Use one or more of these activities to help students **learn about the Creation & the Fall and the Patriarchs eras.**

Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

Quick Step Your Choice!

Before class, cut apart the cards on the reproducible page.

ASK: **What is history?** (*His story. God's story*)

What are the three stages of God's plan? (God prepares for salvation. God sends salvation. God offers salvation.)

SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan.** Draw students' attention to the first Bible time line. **This time line represents the eras of the Creation & the Fall and the Patriarchs. These eras, or periods of time, are when ♥ God prepared for salvation.** Have volunteers read the text under each icon. Tell preteens that these are major events that happened and important people who lived during this time period. Divide the class into two teams. Tell teams that they'll play each other in a game of Your Choice! Alternating teams, give a card to one person on a team. Tell preteens that the cards are the same as the icons on the time line. **It's your choice whether to act it out or draw on the board what's on your card so your team can guess the event or person. Your team gets two guesses. When your team gives the correct answer, you get 10 points.** Keep score on the board. When finished playing, say: **What ties all the events and people together in these eras is their place in God's plan. Remember, during these eras, ♥ God prepared for salvation.**

Option Symbol Snacks



ASK: **What are the three stages of God's plan?** (God prepares for salvation. God sends salvation. God offers salvation.)

SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan.** Draw students' attention to the first Bible time line. **This time line represents the eras of the Creation & the Fall and the Patriarchs. These eras, or periods of time, are when ♥ God prepared for salvation.** Have volunteers read the text under each icon. Then give each student a copy of the printable file, along with a plate that has a small amount of each food item. **Each food represents an event that happened or a person who lived during the Creation & the Fall and the Patriarchs eras of Bible history. You decide where each food item belongs and place it on that square on your paper. Not every square will be filled.** When students are done, let them share where they placed their food and why. See the second page of the printable file for ideas about where each food could be placed. **What ties all the events and people together in these eras is their place in God's plan. Remember, during these eras, ♥ God prepared for salvation.**

Focus

♥ God prepared for salvation.

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4, Your Choice! reproducible page, scissors, whiteboard, dry-erase marker



Teaching Tip

If some kids are reluctant to participate, let them work in pairs.

Note

See the teacher contents page for the location of reproducible pages. Reproducible pages are also provided on the *Resources* CD.

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4, copies of *Resources* CD Symbol Snacks printable file (1 per student of just the 1st page), paper plates, napkins, toothpicks, bite-size fruit (apples, bananas, grapes, pineapple), gummy worms, animal-shaped cookies, pretzel rods, corn cereal (such as corn squares or corn flakes) Be sure to check for food allergies.



Focus

♥ God prepared for salvation.

Explore His Word (25 minutes)

2 Use these activities to help students **explain how God prepared for salvation during the Creation & the Fall and the Patriarchs eras.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

God created the universe and everything in it. Adam and Eve were told not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or else they would surely die. Satan tempted Adam and Eve; they disobeyed God and were made to leave the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3). In time, people became so corrupt that their every thought was evil. God sent a flood to destroy everyone and everything except Noah and his family (chap. 6-9). After the flood, descendants of Noah tried to seize God's place by building "a tower that reaches to the heavens" (11:4). So God scattered the people by confusing their language.

Genesis 12 records God's selection of Abraham for the establishment of a chosen nation—the nation through which God would bless all nations. Abraham and Sarah, both in their nineties, rejoiced at the miraculous birth of Isaac (21:2). Later, God tested Abraham, commanding him to sacrifice Isaac. Obediently, Abraham raised a knife to kill Isaac, but God provided another sacrifice (chap. 22).

Eventually God led Isaac to marry Rebekah (chap. 24). Together they had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. After wrestling with an angel of God, Jacob was given the new name of Israel (32:28). Jacob married Rachel and became the father of 12 sons. One of Jacob's sons, Joseph, was hated by his brothers and sold into slavery (chap. 37). In Egypt, Joseph rose to a position second to Pharaoh (41:41-57). Driven by famine, Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy food. Joseph forgave his brothers and arranged for his family to move to Egypt. The era of the Patriarchs ended with the death of Joseph. The Israelites would live as slaves in Egypt for 400 years.

Materials

Activities for lesson 2,
Bibles, paper, pencils,
markers, reusable adhesive,
Resources sheets 1-4



Note

Because of the number of Scriptures to explore, printed Scriptures are not provided for units 1 and 2. Provide Bibles for preteens who do not bring Bibles to class, and encourage students to find and read in their Bibles the suggested Scriptures.

Teaching Tip

There are usually a few students who tend to dominate discussions. Encourage everyone in the groups to participate.

Bible Exploration Genesis

Distribute the leaflets and have students look at the activity Genesis Means "Beginnings." Have a volunteer or two read this aloud. Then ask students to turn in their leaflets to the activity The Preparation for Salvation Begins. Divide the class into small groups and assign each group at least one of the questions to answer. Be sure that each group has Bibles, pencils, a sheet of paper for each question they're assigned, and a marker. Tell the groups to read their questions and the Scriptures listed. When groups have come up with answers, preteens should write their answers on separate sheets of paper. When students are done, tell them to post their answers, in order, on a wall.

Call preteens' attention to the first Bible time line. SAY: **The Creation & the Fall and the Patriarchs eras tell how many things began: people, sin, languages, and the nation of Israel. These eras show us how God began working His plan to bring salvation to all people. After creating the world, God created people.** Tell the Adam and Eve group to read its question and answer. Ask whether everyone agrees. If so, encourage all preteens to write the answer in their leaflets.

SAY: **Because they sinned, God made them leave the Garden of Eden. People continued to sin, so God sent a flood to destroy those who were evil.** Ask the Noah group to read its question and answer. Ask whether everyone agrees. If so, encourage everyone to write the answer in their

leaflets. **God saved Noah and his family. After the flood, descendants of Noah did wrong and tried to reach the heavens. God scattered the people for doing this, making them speak lots of different languages. The people and events of the Creation & the Fall era show us why God chose to send Jesus. People did wrong and needed salvation.**

Ask the Abram's Call group to read its question and answer. Ask whether everyone agrees. If so, encourage everyone to write the answer in their leaflets. Ask the Isaac group to read its question and answer. Ask whether everyone agrees. If so, encourage everyone to write the answer in their leaflets. SAY: **Later, God tested Abraham, commanding him to sacrifice his son Isaac. Abraham obeyed, but God provided another sacrifice.** Ask the Jacob group to read its question and answer. Ask whether everyone agrees. If so, encourage everyone to write the answer in their leaflets. Ask the Joseph in Egypt group to read its question and answer. Ask whether everyone agrees. If so, encourage everyone to write the answer in their leaflets. **The era of the Patriarchs ended with the death of Joseph. The Israelites would live as slaves in Egypt for 400 years. The people and events of the Patriarchs era show us how God began the nation through which Jesus would come.**

ASK: **What surprised you the most about how God prepared for salvation during these two eras?** Accept responses. Give time for preteens to think about this.

SAY: **♥ God prepared for salvation in His own awesome way. Through the people and events in these first two eras of Bible history, God's plan for salvation was set into motion.**

Bible Memory 2 Timothy 3:14, 15

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

Continue to display the 2 Timothy 3:14, 15 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Ask students to turn to 2 Timothy 3:14, 15 in their Bibles. Ask a volunteer to read the verses aloud.

ASK: **What are some things that we think can make us wise?** (studying lots of subjects, reading a lot, learning from others)
What do these verses say will make us wise for salvation? (the Scriptures)

Ask preteens to work together to make up motions that go along with the key words in the Bible Memory. After the motions have been agreed on, lead students in doing the motions while saying the Bible Memory.

SAY: **Studying the Scriptures can make us wise for salvation. That's an awesome reason to study the Bible! ♥ God prepared for salvation—for our salvation, for the salvation of our friends and families, and for everyone's salvation! Let's study His Word so that we can know enough to tell others about the salvation He offers.**

Materials

Resources sheet 5,
Bibles



Note

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources CD*.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print and use the
Resources CD Optional Bible Skills 2 printable file.



Focus

♥ God prepared for salvation.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

- 3** Use one of these activities to help students **discover why they need to know about the Creation & the Fall and the Patriarchs eras.**

Materials

Resources sheets 1–4,
paper, pencil



Teaching Tip

If you have an uneven number of students, one could group have three preteens.

Quick Step Hot or Cold



Help students pair up. Tell the pairs to stand up, get in different areas of the room, and lock arms. SAY: **Let's play a game of Hot or Cold. I've chosen something for you to find.** The "something" they are to find is you! **You have five seconds to move somewhere. Then I'll tell you whether you are getting hotter or colder. Go!** At the end of five seconds tell the pairs to stop. Tell preteens whether they're hotter or colder. Keep playing until a pair has found you. Ask students to stay in their pairs (but not with locked arms) as they sit down. Give each group a sheet of paper and a pencil. **As you moved closer to me, I said you were getting hotter. When we move closer to God, God's not going to tell us anything like that. But the more we know and understand God's story, the closer to God we'll move. And that's a great direction to move!** Draw students' attention to the first Bible time line. **Work in your pairs to answer this question. Come up with as many answers as you can, writing them on your paper.**

ASK: **Why do we need to know about the Creation & the Fall and the Patriarchs eras of Bible history?** (get to know God better, need to know that God made the world, need to know about how lots of things began, need to know that God began working His plan to bring salvation to all people)

Let preteens take turns telling what they came up with. SAY: **♥ God prepared for salvation because He loves us. That's worth knowing about!**

Materials

wax paper, toothpick,
eyedropper, water
(optional: enough supplies
for each preteen to try the
experiment)



Note

Water molecules have an attraction for each other. This attraction is strong enough to cause the water drop to move toward the water on the toothpick. The attraction of the water molecules for each other is due to the fact that each molecule has a positive and a negative side. The positive side of one molecule attracts the negative side of another molecule.



Consider allowing students extra time to experiment with this.

Option Moving Closer

Be sure everyone can see as you do this experiment. Spread the wax paper on a table. Use an eyedropper to position four separate small drops of water on the paper. Wet the toothpick with water. SAY: **I'm going to bring the tip of the wet toothpick near to, but not touching, one of the water drops.**

ASK: **What do you think will happen?** Accept responses.

Do the experiment. The water drop will move toward the toothpick. SAY: **The water moved closer to the wet toothpick. We don't need to move closer to water, but we do need to move closer to God! The more we know and understand God's story, the closer to God we'll move.**

ASK: **Why do we need to know about the Creation & the Fall and the Patriarchs eras of Bible history?** (get to know God better, need to know that God made the world, need to know about how lots of things began, need to know that God began working His plan to bring salvation to all people)

SAY: **♥ God prepared for salvation because He loves us. That's worth knowing about!**

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4 Use one of these activities to help students **commit to growing in their knowledge of God's Word and His plan.**

Focus

♥ God prepared for salvation.

Quick Step Take the Challenge

Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **Just think—from the beginning, God had a plan. God's plan for salvation was set into motion. And that plan was all about you and me. ♥ God prepared for salvation, sent salvation, and now offers salvation to all people. When we obediently accept God's offer of salvation, that moves us in His direction. And that's the direction we all need to be going in!**

SAY: **One way you can keep moving in God's direction is to grow in knowledge of God's Word and His plan. But that takes commitment on your part. Are you willing to commit to that?** Have preteens turn in their leaflets to the activity Take the Challenge. Read the directions. Encourage students to put check marks by those things that they will commit to doing. Discuss with students about when they can read God's Word on their own, and mention some tools they could use along with their Bible reading. Also talk about the opportunities preteens have in studying God's Word with others and how important it is to ask questions and use Bible tools when studying God's Word. Close with a time of prayer. Invite volunteers to offer thanks to God for His plan of salvation, about how He prepared for salvation, and that the salvation God offers is for everyone.

Option Commit to Grow

Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **Just think—from the beginning, God had a plan. And that plan was all about you and me. ♥ God prepared for salvation, sent salvation, and now offers salvation to all people. When we accept God's offer of salvation through repentance and baptism, that moves us in His direction. And that's the direction we all need to be going in! One way you can keep moving in God's direction is to grow in knowledge of God's Word and His plan. But that takes commitment on your part.**

Ask preteens to close their eyes. SAY: **It's Monday morning. You keep hitting the snooze on your alarm. You don't want to get up; you're really tired. Oh no! You've overslept! You had committed to reading God's Word each morning, but there's no time. Has this ever happened to you?** Pause slightly. **Now think about this. It's Sunday morning and you're in class. You had committed to studying God's Word with others. But you're not listening. You're thinking about all the things you're going to do this week. Has this ever happened to you?** Ask preteens to open their eyes.

SAY: **Don't worry or give up; things like this will happen. Let's make a commitment to grow in our knowledge of God's Word and His plan.** Have students stand and form a circle. Ask them to put their right hands on the shoulder of the person on their right. Tell them to silently pray. **First, tell God that you're committing to grow in knowledge of His Word and His plan. Then ask God to help the person on your right to keep his or her commitment to grow in knowledge of God's Word and His plan.** After a brief time of silence, close in prayer.

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4,
Activities for lesson 2,
pencils



Materials

Resources sheets 1-4



Have volunteers act out the situations being described.



Live Wire

Distribute *Live Wire* to students before they leave. They will enjoy the articles, puzzles, and other features included in this fun student magazine.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.21stcc.com.



Exodus & Conquest; Judges

Lesson 3



Scripture: Exodus-1 Samuel 9










Bible Memory: 2 Timothy 3:14, 15

Focus: ♥ God's plan of salvation includes repentance and forgiveness.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

During the Judges era, the graciousness of God is clearly seen when the Israelites sinned against God. Time after time, God accepted their repentance and forgave them. That should give all of us believers a lot of hope! One day we will stand before God forgiven, knowing that He doesn't see our sins. He will see us as His beloved children.

Lesson 3 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help students <i>learn about the Exodus & Conquest and the Judges eras.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Your Choice!</p> <p> Option Who Am I?</p>	<p>Immerse Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources sheets 1-4, Your Choice! reproducible page • Resources sheets 1-4, Resources CD Who Am I? printable file 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scissors, whiteboard, dry-erase markers • whiteboard, dry-erase marker
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help students <i>explain how God prepared for salvation during the Exodus & Conquest and the Judges eras.</i></p>	<p> Bible Exploration Exodus-1 Samuel 9</p> <p> Bible Memory 2 Timothy 3:14, 15</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for lesson 3, Resources sheets 1-4 • Resources sheet 5 • Resources CD Optional Bible Skills 3 printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils, Bibles • Bibles • Bibles, Bible concordances, paper, pencils
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help students <i>discover biblical examples of repentance and forgiveness during the Exodus & Conquest and the Judges eras.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Repentance and Forgiveness</p> <p> Option Cycle of the Judges</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources sheets 1-4, Activities for lesson 3 • Resources CD Cycle of the Judges printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, pencils, Bibles
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help students <i>repent when doing wrong and ask God for forgiveness.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step Journal It</p> <p> Option S'more Forgiveness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for lesson 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles • marshmallow creme, graham crackers, ice cream topping, napkins, plastic knives, paper plates, Bible

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these activities to help students **learn about the Exodus & Conquest and the Judges eras.**

Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

Quick Step Your Choice!

Before class, cut apart the cards on the reproducible page.

SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan.** Draw students' attention to the second Bible time line. **This time line represents the eras of the Exodus & Conquest and the Judges. These eras, or periods of time, are when God continued to prepare for salvation.** Have volunteers read the text under each icon. Tell preteens that these are major events that happened and important people who lived during this time period.

Divide the class into two teams. Tell teams that they'll play each other in a game of Your Choice! Alternating teams, give a card to one volunteer on a team. Tell preteens that the cards are the same as the icons on the time line. SAY: **It's your choice whether to act it out or draw on the board what's on your card so your team can guess the event or person. Your team gets two guesses. When your team gives the correct answer, you get 10 points.** When finished playing, say: **What ties all the events and people together in these eras is their place in God's plan of preparing for salvation.**

Option Who Am I?

SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan.** Draw students' attention to the second Bible time line. **This time line represents the eras of the Exodus & Conquest and the Judges. These eras, or periods of time, are when God continued to prepare for salvation.** Have volunteers read the text under the icons. Tell preteens that these are major events that happened and important people who lived during this time period.

Divide the class into two teams, and tell the teams to huddle up. Tell preteens that they're going to play a game of Who Am I? You will read a statement about someone who lived during the Exodus & Conquest or the Judges eras. They decide who it is and give an answer. If correct, they get 20 points. Keep score on the board. If not correct, the other team gets another hint and can give an answer. If correct, they get 15 points. If not correct, the first team gets another hint and can give an answer. If correct, they get 10 points. When done playing, SAY: **What ties all these people together in these eras is their place in God's plan of preparing for salvation.**

Focus

♥ God's plan of salvation includes repentance and forgiveness.

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4, Your Choice! reproducible page, scissors, whiteboard, dry-erase markers



Note

See the teacher contents page for the location of reproducible pages. Reproducible pages are also provided on the *Resources* CD.



Since some students worry about winning and might be disappointed by losing, remind preteens that it's just a game.

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4, *Resources* CD Who Am I? printable file, whiteboard, dry-erase marker



Since some students worry about winning and might be disappointed by losing, remind preteens that it's just a game.

Focus

♥ God's plan of salvation includes repentance and forgiveness.

Explore His Word (25 minutes)

2 Use these activities to help students **explain how God prepared for salvation during the Exodus & Conquest and the Judges eras.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

A pharaoh who did not remember Joseph enslaved the Israelite people living in Egypt. Fearing the increasing number of Hebrews, Pharaoh ordered all Hebrew baby boys to be killed, but Moses' family and Pharaoh's daughter saved Moses. As an adult, Moses was used by God to lead Israel out of Egypt. After the institution of the Passover, God's people journeyed to Mt. Sinai, where they received the Law and built the tabernacle. During their wilderness journeys, the people of Israel were often disobedient. The priests received laws and regulations for worship in the tabernacle, as well as for daily living. These laws are recorded in the book of Leviticus. An estimated three million people were numbered and arranged for the final journey to the promised land.

Spies reported the promised land to be rich, yet the inhabitants fearsome. Because the people were afraid to enter the land (Numbers 14), God condemned them to wander for 40 years. After Moses' death, leadership passed to Joshua. Joshua led in the conquest of the promised land. The land was divided among the tribes of Israel (Numbers 32; Joshua 13-21).

The era of the Judges covers a period of about 350 years and was characterized by cycles of sin, oppression, and repentance. When Israel repented, God sent a judge to deliver them. Fifteen people were called judges. Among them are Deborah (Judges 4, 5); Gideon (chap. 6, 7); and Samson (chap. 13-16). The account of Ruth takes place during the era of the Judges. Ruth and her husband, Boaz, were great-grandparents of King David in the lineage of Christ. Samuel was the last judge and the first prophet. He prepared the people for an era of history when kings and prophets would lead the Israelite nation.

Materials

Activities for lesson 3,
pencils, Bibles,
Resources sheets 1-4



Teaching Tip

If you have a small class, you may want individual students to look up the Scriptures and answer the questions.

Bible Exploration Exodus-1 Samuel 9

Distribute the leaflets and have students turn to the activity The Preparation for Salvation Continues. Divide the class into six small groups (or pairs). Assign each group one set of the questions to complete. Tell the groups to read their questions and the Scriptures listed. When each group has come up with its answers, students should write the answers in their leaflets.

Call preteens' attention to the second Bible time line. SAY: **The Exodus & Conquest and Judges eras tell how the Israelites were shaped into a nation. They received the land where they would live. But the nation acted like children who are learning to walk. When they stumbled and fell, God was always there to pick them up. God worked through the people and events of these eras to shape the children of Israel into a nation through whom Jesus, our salvation, would come. These eras show us how God continued working His plan to bring salvation to all people.**

Point to the first icon on the time line. SAY: **When Pharaoh commanded that all the Hebrew baby boys be killed, Moses' family hid him. With God's help, Moses lived. Later in Moses' life, God would call Moses to serve Him.** Have the Moses and Aaron group read its questions, completing them. (Answers: God, Egypt, did not let them leave) **The Israelites celebrated the Passover, when God passed over the homes of the Israelites but killed the firstborn sons of the Egyptians.**

Have the Exodus group read its questions, completing them. (Answers:

Israelites, pillar of cloud, pillar of fire) **Sometime after the exodus, God gave the Israelites the 10 Commandments. Later, 12 spies were sent into the promised land to scout it out. All the spies except Joshua and Caleb reported that the Israelites should not go to the promised land.** Have the Joshua group read its questions, completing them. (Answers: Jordan River, courageous, obey)

SAY: **Joshua led the Israelites as they crossed the Jordan River into the promised land of Canaan. And Joshua led them in conquering the city of Jericho.** Have the Deborah group read its questions, completing them. (Answers: evil things, Jabin, Barak) **After Deborah came other judges of Israel, including Gideon and Samson.** Have the Ruth group read its questions, completing them. (Answers: picking up leftover grain, Obed, David) Then have the Samuel group read its questions, completing them. (Answers: prophet, Saul, the Lord) **Samuel anointed Saul as the first king of Israel.**

SAY: **During these eras, many of God’s leaders—especially the judges—would tell the people they needed to repent, to turn from their wrongdoing. They knew that ♥ God’s plan of salvation includes repentance and forgiveness. That was true during the Exodus & Conquest and Judges eras, and it’s still true today.**

Bible Memory 2 Timothy 3:14, 15

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Continue to display the 2 Timothy 3:14, 15 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Ask students to turn to 2 Timothy 3:14, 15 in their Bibles. Have a volunteer read the verses aloud. Then have another volunteer lead students in saying the Bible Memory together. If students created motions last week to do with the Bible Memory, have them do the motions while saying the verses.

Have students sit on chairs in a circle. Ask a student to pop up and say the first word of the Bible Memory, then sit down. The next preteen in the circle pops up and says the next word. Continue in the same way around the circle until the Bible Memory has been said a few times. Encourage students to say the verses from memory, but allow them to look in their Bibles or at the poster if they need to. SAY: **During the eras of the Exodus & Conquest and Judges, the Israelites were, unfortunately, up and down in their faithfulness to God.**

ASK: **How can we stay up and *not* be down in our faithfulness to God?**

(keep reading and studying the Bible, have friends who will help us stay faithful, ask for God’s help)

Materials

Resources sheet 5,
Bibles



Note

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources CD*.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print and use the
Resources CD Optional Bible
Skills 3 printable file.



Focus

♥ God's plan of salvation includes repentance and forgiveness.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

- 3 Use one of these activities to help students **discover biblical examples of repentance and forgiveness during the Exodus & Conquest and the Judges eras.**

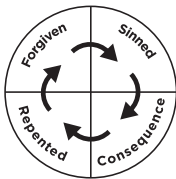
Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, *Resources* sheets 1–4, *Activities* for lesson 3, pencils, Bibles



Teaching Tip

Help preteens who don't like to act find ways to be involved, such as finding props to use or making sound effects during the skits.



Some students may persevere on how they continually make mistakes. Reassure students that everyone makes mistakes and that Jesus forgives.

Materials

4 copies of *Resources* CD Cycle of the Judges printable file



Tech Tip

If preteens want to do sign language, let them go online to see videos of how to do this.

Quick Step Repentance and Forgiveness

Before class, draw on the board the diagram that's in the narrow column.

Divide the class into two groups. Direct students' attention to the diagram you've drawn on the board. SAY: **Think about a time when you disobeyed a parent, the parent punished you and you suffered the consequence, you repented, and the parent forgave you. Then you disobeyed again, and the whole cycle repeated. In your groups, come up with one situation like this that your group can act out. Keep it brief, but make sure you act out all four parts of the cycle.** Give groups time to work. Then let them act out their situations. They should stay in the two groups.

Have students turn in their leaflets to the activity Repentance and Forgiveness. Read the instructions and draw students' attention to the diagram on the page. SAY: **Look familiar? During the Judges era, the same kind of cycle happened again and again. Let's find out about two of those times.** Assign one group Judges 4 and the other group Judges 6. Give groups time to work. Then have each group read each sentence, reading only the correct words. Encourage everyone to cross out the wrong words in their leaflets. (Answers: correct words—evil, Canaan, God, Deborah, evil, Midianites, 7, Gideon) **Unfortunately, this cycle didn't just happen two times. It happened a lot! But Deborah, Gideon, and all the judges knew that ♥ God's plan of salvation includes repentance and forgiveness. That's true today too.**

Option Cycle of the Judges

ASK: **Tell us about a time when you disobeyed a parent, the parent punished you, you repented, and the parent forgave you. Then you did it again and the cycle started over.** Accept responses.

Ask preteens to come up with motions (or actions) for these words: *sin*, *defeat*, *repent*, and *forgive*. Have everyone practice the motions you decided on. SAY: **During the Judges era, a cycle of events kept happening. The Israelite people would sin. God would send an enemy to defeat them. The Israelites would repent. Then God would forgive them.** Ask for volunteers who would like to read about a few of these times, and give each volunteer a copy of Cycle of the Judges. Tell preteens that when they hear forms of the words they created motions for, they should do those motions. Have the volunteers read, pausing where indicated for preteens to do motions.

SAY: **Unfortunately, the Israelites kept sinning, repeating the cycle over and over and over. But it's so awesome that God kept forgiving them when they repented! In fact, ♥ God's plan of salvation includes repentance and forgiveness. That was true in the Exodus & Conquest and the Judges eras, and it's still true today.**

Live It Out (10 minutes)

4 Use one of these activities to help students **repent when doing wrong and ask God for forgiveness.**

Focus

♥ God's plan of salvation includes repentance and forgiveness.

Quick Step Journal It

ASK: **What does it mean to repent?** (to feel bad about doing something wrong, to turn from doing wrong and start doing the right thing, to tell God I'm sorry for doing something wrong)

When should you repent and ask for God's forgiveness? (anytime I do something wrong)

Ask students to turn in their Bibles to 1 John 1:9. Have a volunteer read the verse aloud. SAY: **When we repent and confess our sins to God, He will forgive us. After we become Christians, we try to do right and make good choices. But we still make mistakes and sin. The great thing is that we can turn to God, and He will forgive us.** Ask preteens to turn in their leaflets to the activity Journal It. Read the directions. **I challenge you and I challenge myself to fill out this journal during the week. If you run out of room, use a sheet of paper. Remember to repent when you do something wrong, and ask God for forgiveness. From the beginning, God had a plan—the plan of salvation. And ♥ God's plan of salvation includes repentance and forgiveness.**

Have students stay seated for the prayer time. Encourage students to close their eyes and talk with God. Suggest that they pray silently and repent, confessing their sins to God and asking for His forgiveness. Tell preteens to stand when they're done praying. When everyone is standing, SAY: **It's great to know that God's plan of salvation includes His forgiveness. We can stand before God forgiven, knowing that He doesn't see our sins. He sees us as His beloved children.**

Option S'more Forgiveness



Distribute supplies for making s'more treats. Preteens can spread marshmallow creme on half a graham cracker, topped by chocolate topping and the other half of the graham cracker. Continue the discussion as students enjoy the treats.

ASK: **When should you repent and ask for God's forgiveness?** (anytime I do something wrong)

Have a volunteer turn to 1 John 1:9 and read it aloud. SAY: **When we repent and confess our sins to God, He will forgive us. When we become Christians, we try to do right and make good choices. But we still make mistakes and sin. The great thing is that we can repent and turn to God, and He will forgive us. While we may like s'more treats, we need s'more forgiveness. It's great that ♥ God's plan of salvation includes repentance and forgiveness. Let's pray right now.** Have preteens spread out around your room as much as possible. Ask them to silently pray. Encourage preteens to repent of their sins, confessing them to God and asking for His forgiveness. After a brief time of silence, close in prayer. Be sure to thank God for the forgiveness He offers.

Materials

Bibles, *Activities* for lesson 3



Teaching Tip

You may have some preteens interested in learning more about God's offer of forgiveness. See the *Resources* CD Leading Young Hearts Into the Lord's Church printable file for help in discussing this with your students.

Materials

marshmallow creme, graham crackers, fudge-like ice cream topping (or frosting), napkins, plastic knives, paper plates, Bible



Teaching Tip

Be aware of any food allergies your students may have, and plan accordingly.

Live Wire

Distribute *Live Wire* to students before they leave. They will enjoy the articles, puzzles, and other features included in this fun student magazine.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.21stcc.com.



Kings & Prophets; Exile & Return

Lesson 4



Scripture: 1 Samuel 10–Malachi










Bible Memory: 2 Timothy 3:14, 15

Focus: ♥ Study God’s Word to know about His plan of salvation.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Thank God that He didn’t leave us in the dark about salvation. His Word sheds all the light on the subject that we need. We know whom God wants to save—each of us! We know why God wants each of us to live with Him forever—He loves us! We know how this can happen—through Jesus! Thank God for His Word and His plan.

Lesson 4 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or more of these activities to help students <i>learn about the Kings & Prophets and the Exile & Return eras.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step People and Events</p> <p> Option Who Am I?</p>	<p>Immerse Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources sheets 1–4, Resources CD People and Events Cards printable file • Resources sheets 1–4, Resources CD Who Am I? printable file 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scissors • whiteboard, dry-erase marker
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help students <i>explain how God prepared for salvation during the Kings & Prophets and the Exile & Return eras.</i></p>	<p> Bible Exploration 1 Samuel 10–Malachi</p> <p> Bible Memory 2 Timothy 3:14, 15</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities for lesson 4, Resources sheets 1–4 • Resources sheet 5 • Resources CD Optional Bible Skills 4 printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, pencils • Bibles • Bibles
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help students <i>understand why it’s important to know about the Old Testament eras of Bible history.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step The Missing Piece</p> <p> Option The Old Testament Eras</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Missing Piece reproducible page, Activities for lesson 4 • Resources CD The Old Testament Eras printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scissors, pencils • scissors
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help students <i>plan to study God’s Word to know more about His plan of salvation.</i></p>	<p> Quick Step My Plan of Action</p> <p> Option Bite-Size Messages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources sheets 1–4, Activities for lesson 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils, Bibles • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, small strips of paper, pencils, wrapped candy, clear tape, resealable plastic bags

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1 Use one or more of these activities to help students **learn about the Kings & Prophets and the Exile & Return eras.**

Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

Quick Step People and Events

Before class, cut apart the cards on the printable file and keep each set separate.

SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan.** Draw students' attention to the third and fourth Bible time lines. **These time lines represent the eras of the Kings & Prophets and the Exile & Return. These eras, or periods of time, are when God continued to prepare for salvation.** Have volunteers read the text under each icon. Tell preteens that these are major events that happened and important people who lived during this time period. Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a set of the People and Event Cards. **Each team has a set of cards listing some of the events and people in these two eras, along with two title cards. Work as a group to put the cards in chronological order under the correct title, either Kings & Prophets or Exile & Return. If you need help, you may send two team members at a time to look at the Bible time lines. Ready? Go!** When teams are done, review how they ordered the cards.

ASK: **Which event or person do you know a lot about?** Accept responses. **Which event or person don't you know much about?**

SAY: **A lot happened during these eras. What ties all the events and people together is their place in God's plan of preparing for salvation.**

Option Who Am I?

SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan.** Draw students' attention to the third and fourth Bible time lines. **These time lines represent the eras of the Kings & Prophets and the Exile & Return. These eras, or periods of time, are when God continued to prepare for salvation.** Have volunteers read the text under each icon. Tell preteens that these are major events that happened and important people who lived during this time period.

Divide the class into two teams. Tell preteens that they're going to play a game of Who Am I? You will read a statement about someone who lived during the Kings & Prophets or Exile & Return eras. They decide who it is and give an answer. If correct, they get 20 points. Keep score on the board. If not correct, the other team gets another hint and can give an answer. If correct, they get 15 points. If not correct, the first team gets another hint and can give an answer. If correct, they get 10 points. When done playing, SAY: **What ties all these people together in these eras is their place in God's plan of preparing for salvation.**

Focus

♥ Study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation.

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4,
2 copies of the Resources
CD People and Events Cards
printable file, scissors



Since some students worry about winning and might be disappointed by losing, remind preteens that it's just a game.

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4,
Resources CD Who Am I?
printable file, whiteboard, dry-
erase marker



Since some students worry about winning and might be disappointed by losing, remind preteens that it's just a game.

Focus

♥ Study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation.

Explore His Word (25 minutes)

2 Use these activities to help students **explain how God prepared for salvation during the Kings & Prophets and the Exile & Return eras.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

Beginning in 1050 BC, Saul, David, and Solomon each reigned 40 years. Saul failed in God's sight as Israel's first king. God instructed Samuel to anoint young David to succeed Saul. The kingdom of Israel rose to its peak under the reign of David's son Solomon. Solomon received from God the gift of wisdom. But Solomon taxed the people heavily, and by the end of his reign, the kingdom was ready to divide.

Solomon's son Rehoboam became king of the southern kingdom of Judah, but 10 northern tribes rebelled and Jeroboam became their king. The northern kingdom of Israel had 19 kings before they were carried away to Assyrian captivity in 722 BC (2 Kings 17). These tribes never returned to the nation of Israel. Judah had 20 rulers before they submitted completely to Babylonian captivity under Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC (chap. 25).

After Solomon's reign, people heard about God through prophets. One of the greatest prophets of Israel was Elijah, who courageously faced the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. He was succeeded by Elisha, who was known for his deeds of kindness. Literary prophets associated with Israel during this period were Jonah, Amos, and Hosea. Those associated with Judah before the fall of Jerusalem were Obadiah, Joel, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Jeremiah. The southern tribes (Judah and Benjamin) were released after the Medes and Persians defeated their Babylonian captors. In 537 BC, about 50,000 Jews returned to Jerusalem. Zerubbabel led the rebuilding of the temple. The prophets at this time were Haggai and Zechariah. During this same time period, Esther became queen of Persia.

When Ezra took a group to Jerusalem, he led the people in a spiritual revival. Nehemiah left the wealth of the court to oversee the rebuilding of the walls in Jerusalem. Malachi prophesied at this time. Old Testament history closed about 100 years after the Jews' return from captivity. The Persians fell to Alexander the Great, and the world came under Greek influence. God had prepared His nation; soon He would send salvation.

Materials

Activities for lesson 4,
Bibles, pencils, *Resources*
sheets 1-4



Teaching Tip

If you have a small class, you may want individual students to look up the Scriptures and answer the questions.

Bible Exploration 1 Samuel 10–Malachi

Distribute the leaflets and have students turn to the activity The Preparation for Salvation Continues. Divide the class into groups of two or three preteens. Assign each pair or group one or more of the statements to read, along with the Scriptures listed. They should work together to decide whether the statement is true or false. If it's false, students should be ready to say how they would change it to make it true.

Call preteens' attention to the third Bible time line. SAY: **When the era of the Judges was over, the people of Israel asked God for a king. During the era of the Kings & Prophets, God worked in the lives of the kings to grow a family from which Jesus would eventually come. And God worked in the lives of the prophets to remind the nation to be faithful to God.** Ask the students with statements 1-9 to read them and say whether they're true or false. If a statement is false, they should say how they would change it to make it true. (Answers: 1=F, did not always obey God; 2=T; 3=T; 4=F, only Isaiah did; 5=F, the temple; 6=T; 7=F, to Assyria; 8=T; 9=T)

Call preteens' attention to the fourth Bible time line. SAY: **During the era of the Exile & Return, God worked through the people and events to**

lead the Israelites to be faithful to Him. Ask the students with statements 10–16 to read them and say whether they’re true or false. If a statement is false, they should say how they would change it to make it true. (Answers: 10=T; 11=F, did not worship it; 12=T; 13=T; 14=F, was not afraid; 15=T)

ASK: How did God use the era of the Kings & Prophets in His preparation for salvation? (God used David’s royal family to be the family of Jesus. Some godly kings and prophets led the people to repent and return to God.)

What part did the era of the Exile & Return play in God’s plan for salvation? (Daniel and Esther led the people back to God and saved the nation from being totally destroyed. Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah led the people to rebuild Jerusalem.)

SAY: This brings the Old Testament to a close. Approximately 400 years separate the time of Nehemiah from Jesus’ birth. This time between the testaments is sometimes called the “silent” years. During this time God did not speak to the Jewish people, but God’s preparation for salvation continued. When we ♥ study God’s Word to know about His plan of salvation, we come to realize how great and awesome God is. It also helps us realize how important we are to God and how much God loves us and wants each of us to be saved.

Bible Memory 2 Timothy 3:14, 15

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Continue to display the 2 Timothy 3:14, 15 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Ask students to turn to 2 Timothy 3:14, 15 in their Bibles. Ask a volunteer to read the verses aloud.

Ask preteens to stand and form a circle. Give a Bible to one of the students. Tell that student to say the first word of the Bible Memory and then respectfully pass the Bible to the person on her right. That person should say the next word of the Bible Memory and respectfully pass the Bible to the next person. Tell preteens to keep going like that until the Bible Memory has been said. **SAY: God’s Word has been passed from one generation to the next, and today we can continuing passing His Word from one person to the next. Let’s not break the chain, but ♥ study God’s Word to know about His plan of salvation so that we can pass it on to others.**

Materials

Resources sheet 5,
Bibles



Note

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources CD*.

Tech Tip

Record students saying the Bible Memory. Then let them watch themselves in action!

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print and use the *Resources CD* Optional Bible Skills 4 printable file.



Focus

♥ Study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help students **understand why it's important to know about the Old Testament eras of Bible history.**

Materials

copies of The Missing Piece reproducible page (each student needs 2 puzzle pieces, 1 OT and 1 NT), scissors, *Activities* for lesson 4, pencils



Note

See the teacher contents page for the location of reproducible pages. Reproducible pages are also provided on the *Resources* CD.

Materials

2 copies of *Resources* CD
The Old Testament Eras printable file, scissors



Teaching Tip

If you have more than 10 preteens, let some pair up to do this activity. If you have fewer than 10 preteens, let some take more than 1 card.

Quick Step The Missing Piece

Before class, cut out the puzzle pieces. Keep the Old Testament pieces separate from the New Testament ones.

Give each preteen a New Testament puzzle piece. SAY: **Stand up and find the puzzle piece that matches yours.** Students will soon realize that no one has a match. Ask students what pieces they think they are missing. If someone says the Old Testament, give each student an Old Testament puzzle piece. If no one says it, go ahead and hand out the puzzle pieces. **The New Testament isn't a complete story without the Old Testament eras of Bible history. Let's find out why.** Have students look in their leaflets at the activity *The Whole Story*. Read the instructions, and do the page together as a class. Have volunteers read a phrase from Column A and then match it to a phrase from Column B. (Answers: 1=d; 2=c; 3=a; 4=f; 5=b; 6=h; 7=e; 8=g)

ASK: **Which of these reasons for knowing about the Old Testament eras means the most to you? Why?** Accept responses.

SAY: **The awesome creator of the universe cares so much about us that He planned from the beginning to save us. That should certainly help us realize how important we are to God! And that should also help us want to ♥ study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation, not only for ourselves, but to share it with others.**

Option The Old Testament Eras



Before class, make two copies of the printable file. Keep one copy intact for your use. Cut apart the cards on the other copy. Be sure to keep the cards in the left column separate from those in the right column.

Give each preteen one of the cards from the left column. Do *not* hand out any from the right column. SAY: **Find the person who has a card that matches yours.** Students will soon realize that no one has a match. **That reminds me of when we study the New Testament without studying the Old Testament; it just isn't complete, and we don't know the whole story. In fact, we don't know how the story started!**

Give each preteen one of the cards from the right column. SAY: **Now the cards will have matches. Keep trading cards until you find a set or two that match; then hold up your cards. We'll keep going until all cards have been matched.** When all the matches have been found, tell students to read their cards. Remind preteens that these are all great reasons why it's important to know about the Old Testament eras of Bible history. **The awesome creator of the universe cares so much about us that He planned from the beginning to save us. That should certainly help us realize how important we are to God! And that should also help us want to ♥ study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation, not only for ourselves, but to share it with others.**

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help students **plan to study God's Word to know more about His plan of salvation.**

Focus

♥ Study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation.

Quick Step My Plan of Action

Draw students' attention to the Bible time lines. SAY: **From the beginning, God had a plan for our salvation. During the eras of Old Testament history, God prepared for that salvation, for the coming of Jesus.**

ASK: **How can we know about God's plan of salvation?** (study the Bible, listen to people teach from the Bible, learn from other Christians)
If someone told you that God's plan of salvation includes our having to do at least 10 good things a month, would you believe it? Why or why not? (no, because the Bible doesn't teach that)

SAY: **It's important to know what God's Word says about salvation because you're going to hear lots of things about it, some of which are in the Bible and some of which are not. God gave us the Bible, but it's up to us to ♥ study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation.**

Ask preteens to turn in their leaflets to the activity My Plan of Action. Read the instructions. Encourage the preteens to take time each day to read what God's Word says about salvation. **Think about what these Scriptures mean. If you're not sure what something means, ask someone or look it up. You could also write down things that come to your mind as you read these verses.** Close with a time of prayer. Invite preteens to turn to 1 John 4:9, 10 in their Bibles. **Use these verses to help you silently pray something like this: Dear God, thank You for showing us Your love. Thank You that You sent Your Son, Jesus, that we might live through Him. Thank You for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.** Invite preteens to silently pray. After a brief time of silence, close in prayer.

Option Bite-Size Messages

ASK: **How can we know about God's plan of salvation?** (study the Bible, listen to people teach from the Bible, learn from other Christians)
If someone told you that God's plan of salvation includes our having to do at least 10 good things a month, would you believe it? Why or why not? (no, because the Bible doesn't teach that)

SAY: **It's important to know what God's Word says about salvation because you're going to hear lots of things about it, some of which are in the Bible and some of which are not. God gave us the Bible, but it's up to us to ♥ study God's Word to know about His plan of salvation.**

Write the following Scripture references on the board: Jeremiah 31:3; John 3:16, 17; 1 John 4:9, 10; Romans 5:6-11; Acts 4:10-12; 1 Timothy 2:3-5; Hebrews 5:7-9. Give each preteen seven strips of paper. Tell them to write a Scripture reference on each strip. Then give each preteen seven pieces of candy. Tell them to tape one candy to each strip. Because preteens will want to eat some candy, be sure to give them a few pieces to eat while they work. Provide resealable plastic bags for students to put their papers and candy in. Encourage the preteens to take time each day to enjoy a treat while they read what God's Word says about salvation. Close with prayer, thanking God for the salvation He offers.

Materials

Resources sheets 1-4, Activities for lesson 4, pencils, Bibles



Teaching Tip

You may have some preteens interested in learning more about the salvation God offers through Jesus. See the Resources CD Leading Young Hearts Into the Lord's Church printable file for help in discussing this with your students.

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, small strips of paper (7 per student; or index cards), pencils, wrapped candy, clear tape, resealable plastic bags



Be sure to check the ingredients of the candy for allergens.

Live Wire

Distribute *Live Wire* to students before they leave. They will enjoy the articles, puzzles, and other features included in this fun student magazine.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.21stcc.com.

