



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year 3, Lesson 56 (Spring)

# Keep God's Word in Your Heart

**Primary Scripture:** Deuteronomy 6:4-9

**Key Verse:** Psalm 119:11, "I have treasured your promise in my heart so that I may not sin against you."

## **How does this address a need in our kids' lives?**

Kids need a growing relationship with God. They need their hearts to be open and receptive to God's message for them. They need God's word in their hearts. This brings faith and the promise of Jesus and his forgiving power. When they keep God's word in their hearts, they grow in obedience and trust. The Bible tells us to hear God's word, remember it, talk about it and live it.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Jesus is the word of God made flesh who gave his life for us so that we would have a relationship with God.

**Jesus in us:** God uses his word to fill our hearts so that we might experience the presence of Jesus in our lives.

**Jesus through us:** Jesus works through us as we share the message of his word with others.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

*Supplies:*

- *Two construction paper hearts cut out in exactly the same pattern. Tape or staple them around the edges, leaving the top open so that the hearts become a pouch open from the top.*
- *Cut out pictures from a magazine of toys, food, and parents. If pictures are not available, simply print the words separate pieces of paper.*
- *Print out the verse: John 3:16 "God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die, but will have eternal life."*
- *Confetti or other material that might remind us of praise stuffed in the heart pouch.*

Hold up the heart pouch and say:

**What does this heart symbolize? Yes, love.**

**Well, let's take a look inside this heart and see what kind of things we love. Hmmm...**

Hold up a toy picture.

**I see we love toys. Is there anything wrong with loving toys? I suppose not. But if that is all you have in your heart to love, it wouldn't be enough would it?**

**Let's see what else we have. Oh, look at this food.**

Hold up the food picture.

**Have you ever said, "I love pizza?" That may be true. We might really like pizza. But if that is all we had to love, it wouldn't be enough.**

Hold up the picture of parents.

**Oh, here is a picture of someone's parents. Well, we certainly love our parents. But should we have more love in our hearts than just for our parents?**

**Today we will talk about keeping God's word in our hearts. The Bible tells us we should treasure God's word in our hearts. What happens when we do that? Let's see. Here is God's word.**

Hold up the John 3:16 verse. Read it and place it in the heart.

***"God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."***

**Praise flows from our hearts**

**God's word comes into our hearts saying that God loves us. What should we do? We say, "I love you," back to God. That is our worship and praise.**

**When you worship God today, think of it like this...**

Pull the confetti out and throw some toward the heavens.

**You are celebrating God's love in your heart. You are thanking God and telling him he is wonderful. It flows from your heart when you say, "I love you, God, more than anything else."**

## **Songs of Worship:**

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

# The Power of the Cross:

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

*Supplies: the words: “disobedience,” “selfishness,” and “hate” all printed on separate pieces of paper; heart pouch from Attention Grabber*

## Sin hides in our heart.

Have the three words already hidden in the heart or place the papers in the heart when no one is looking.

**If you look deep in your heart, you may find things you wish you didn’t see. Maybe you would find this: *disobedience*.**

Pull out the word “disobedience.”

**Maybe you love having your own way so much that you disobey your parents. Or maybe in your heart you sense “*selfishness*.”**

Pull out the word “selfishness.”

**Maybe you love thinking about what *you* need and want, not about anyone else’s concerns or needs.**

**Or maybe you find this in your heart: *hate*.**

Pull out the “hate” word from the heart.

**Maybe you love feeling better than others and you convert that pride into *hate*.**

## Give your sin to God.

**When we find these things in our hearts, we must take them out and give them to God. He will remove them from our hearts. Let’s pray.**

**Dear God, each one of us is thinking about what is in our hearts right now. Certainly we have love for you, but we may love other things more. We may treasure things in our hearts that are against your word.**

**We need your forgiveness for times we disobey. Forgive us for our selfishness. Forgive us for hating others. Please help each of us to say, “If there is anything hidden in my heart that causes me to be disobedient to you and needs forgiving, I want to give it to you. Please**

**take these things away and grant me forgiveness.” In Jesus’ name. Amen.**

### God’s word fills our hearts

**Psalm 119:11 says *“I have treasured your promise in my heart so that I may not sin against you.”***

**Earlier we put God’s word of John 3:16 in our heart. That verse says that God loved us so much he sent his Son, Jesus, to give his life for us. It promises that if we believe in him, our sins will be forgiven. If you believe in Jesus, then your sins are forgiven. God’s word of promise is hidden in your heart. His power is now with you and will give you the strength to not sin against God.**

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## **Offering:**

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

Use the heart pouch as an offering basket and have the kids put their offerings in it. Explain that this heart represents our love for God. As we give him our money, we are telling him, “We love you.”



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

### **Clothespin Cling-ons:**

*Supplies: a large supply of clothespins (about three to five clothespins per child)*

In advance, divide the clothespins and place in two buckets at opposite ends of the room.

Divide the group into two teams. Have each team select a person to be the “Clothespin Cling-on.” The object of the game is to put as many clothespins on that person’s clothing as possible.

The “Clothespin Cling-on” should be positioned at the opposite end of the room from his/her team bucket.

### Rules:

Clothespins cannot travel by any person walking or taking a step. They may not be thrown. They can only travel from one person’s clothes to another’s as kids take a clothespin off of someone and pin it to him/herself. One other rule, if a boy drops a clothespin while pinning it clothes to clothes, he can’t pick it up. However, a girl can. Likewise, if a girl drops a clothespin, then only a boy can pick it up.

Have the teams line up from the “Cling-on” to the bucket containing the clothespins. At the start, the child nearest the bucket puts clothespins on his clothes. As he puts the clothespins on his clothes, the next child can reach for them and put the pins on *his* clothes. The third child can then reach for the clothespins and so on. This continues to the child nearest the “Cling-on” where all clothespins will be attached to the clothes.

Designate a time limit such as 100 seconds for the game. Let the kids compete against the clock and each other. Count the score by removing the pins one at a time and putting them back in the bucket. Play as long as time permits.

## Teaching point

It was fun to see you pass the clothespins and see so many stuck to one person. Today we will read in the Bible how God tells us to pass down his word from one generation to another. In other words, God's word is passed from parents to their children. Then the children will have God's word in their hearts to pass to their children when they get older. We can acquire God's word in our hearts by hearing it spoken, by reading it and remembering it, and by obeying God. All these clothespins represent the acquiring of God's word to be heard and obeyed.

## **Bible Presentation:**

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

The Bible reading is Deuteronomy 6:4-9. In this part of the Bible, God is giving instructions to his people, the Israelites. He tells them they need to keep his word in their hearts as they go into the Promised Land. He tells them they should also instruct their children to do so.

## Key word: LOVE

This scripture really emphasizes the word "love." We are to love God with our whole being. We should hide God's word in our hearts.

Let's play a listening game. As the Bible passage is read, I want you to give a big sigh like this, "Ahhhh," when you hear either the word "love" or "heart."

Begin reading:

***"Listen, Israel: the Lord is our God. The Lord is the only God. Love the Lord..."***

Pause, giving indication to the children to speak or have a volunteer prompt the kids to say, "**Ahhhh**."

***...your God with all your heart (kids say, "**Ahhhh**"), with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart (kids say, "**Ahhhh**.") these words that I give you today."***

God's word also shows us how we can love God. We need to have his word all around us. Anytime you hear the word, "Word," shout, "Amen."

Read the paraphrase below of Deuteronomy 6:7-9. The word “them” has been substituted with the word “word.”

***“Take to heart these words...***

Indicate to the children to say, “Amen.”

***“...that I give you today. Repeat the word (“Amen”) to your children. Talk about the word (“Amen”) when you’re at home or away, when you lie down or get up. Write down the word (“Amen”) and tie the word (“Amen”) around your wrists, and wear the word (“Amen”) as headbands as a reminder. Write the word (“Amen”) on the doorframes of your house and on your gates.”***

## **Application:**

### Keep God’s word in your heart: Activity Stations

Explain to the entire group about the learning stations that are set up around the room. Then dismiss the kids to go to whatever learning station they choose. Before dismissing, have them all practice the memory work, which will encourage kids to go by the “memory station” sometime during the morning.

All stations relate to the passage we want kids to hide in their hearts. It is the summary of God’s law. Deuteronomy 6:4-6:

***“... The Lord is our God. The Lord is the only God. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words ...”***

#### Station one: Memory station

*Supplies: copies of the verse and candies for rewards*

Children can come and practice learning the verse with an adult. Once they have recited successfully twice, they will receive a piece of candy.

#### Station two: Mural making

*Supplies: Have two large strips of butcher paper taped together with these words on it:*

***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”***

Talk about these words in Deuteronomy 6:7, ***“when you’re at home or away, when you lie down or get up.”***

Have the kids lie down, close their eyes and imagine how much they love God. Say:

**The Bible says you should love God—**

- ***“with all your heart”***—with your whole being... with all your feeling,
- ***“with all your soul”***—your deepest personality and thoughts,
- ***“with all your strength”***—all your actions.

**Think of ways you can show love to God.**

As kids name how they can show their love to God, have them remain with their eyes closed and imagine doing that activity. Some examples might be: worship, prayer, praise, reading the Bible, obeying, loving others.

Let the kids label and illustrate these actions on the mural.

### **Station three: Wrist Bands**

*Supplies: Appendix A copied on cardstock and precut into slips of paper, markers, colored pencils and crayons for decorating, tape or glue sticks for fastening*

Have slips of cardstock, 1” by 8 ½”, precut with, “Love God with all your heart, soul and strength” on them. (See Appendix A.) Let the kids color the letters with markers, colored pencils or crayons. They can then fasten them on their wrists with tape or glue stick.

### **Station four: God Talk at Home**

*Supplies: Appendix B copied on cardstock and folded in half to create a two-sided card, markers, colored pencils, and crayons for decorating*

Have kids decorate the “One Minute Talk about God” sheet. (See Appendix B.) They will take it home to discuss with their parents. You might have them share what they think about one of the questions.

### **Station five: Door craft**

*Supplies: Appendix C, markers, colored pencils and crayons for decorating – Optional: yarn and hole punch to create hanger.*

Give each child who visits this station a copy of Appendix C on cardstock. Let them color the picture and take it home and put in their bedroom.

*Option:* If you have yarn available, take a paper punch and place two holes at the top edge. Thread and knot the yarn so that the picture can be hung.



# Witness

## Witness and Tell:

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

Encourage kids to talk about conversations they have had at home about God or times they have read the Bible together.

## Prayer:

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

**Options:** (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

## Blessing:

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

# Supplies:

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

## Attention Grabber:

- two construction paper hearts cut out in exactly the same pattern. Tape or staple them around the edges, leaving the top open so that the hearts become a pouch open from the top.
- cut out pictures from a magazine of toys, food, and parents. If pictures are not available, simply print the words on separate pieces of paper.
- print out the verse: John 3:16 *“God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.”*
- confetti or other material that might remind us of praise stuffed in the heart pouch

## Power of the Cross:

- words printed on separate pieces of paper: *disobedience, selfishness, hate*
- heart pouch from *Attention Grabber*

## Offering:

- heart pouch from *Attention Grabber*

## Learning Game:

- two buckets of clothespins—enough for three to five per student

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## Application:

### Station One

- copies of the verse (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) and candies for rewards

### Station Two

- two large strips of butcher paper taped together with these words on it: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”*
- markers, colored pencils and crayons

### Station Three

- Appendix A copied on cardstock and precut into slips of paper
- markers, colored pencils, and crayons for decorating
- tape or glue sticks for fastening

### Station Four

- Appendix B copied on cardstock--fold in half to create a two-sided card
- Markers, colored pencils, and crayons for decorating

### Station Five

- Appendix C copied on cardstock
- markers, colored pencils, and crayons for decorating
- *Optional: yarn and hole punch to create hanger*

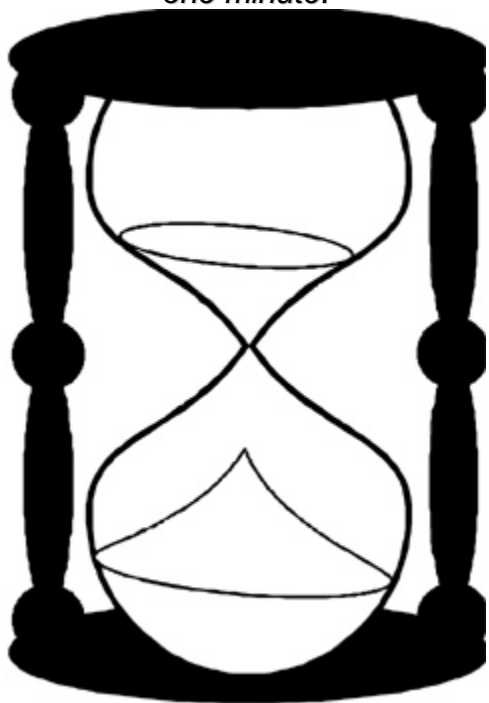
Love God with all your  
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## One Minute Talk about God

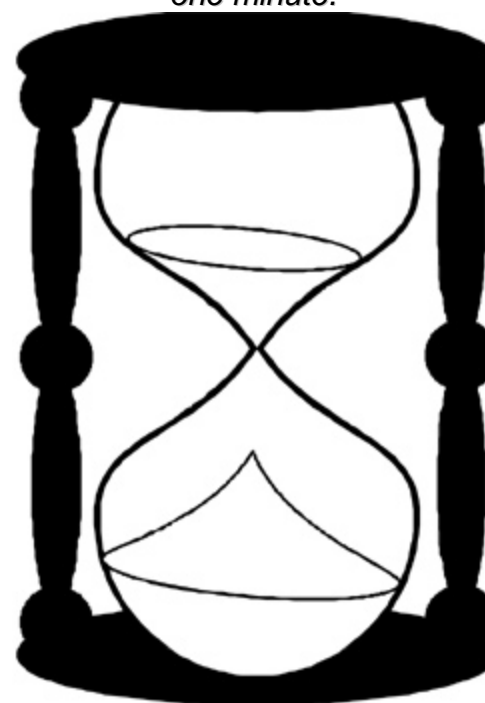
*Parents and child each talk about these questions for one minute.*



- God the Father sent his Son Jesus to be a man in our world. Jesus looked like a person. What do you think God the Father looks like?
- If you could ask God any question, what would it be?
- Where is your favorite place to spend time with God?

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*As for me and my house, we will  
serve the Lord.* Joshua 24:15 (KJV)

