**PSALMS**

We can find several themes throughout the Psalms. These short lesson plans incorporate the themes of Creation and names and attributes of God. Themes of praise and worship of God, prayer, God’s Word, and confession and forgiveness could also be developed.

We use the songs “What a Mighty God We Serve” and “My God is so Big” and sing them each day to begin or end the lesson.

**Creation:**

Discuss Creation, tying in Genesis 1. Think of God’s creativity – all the different things He made! Animals, insects, birds, fish; plants – flowers, vegetables, trees, fruits; land – mountains, hills, prairies, deserts, rain forests; water – oceans, rivers, brooks; and people! What a variety, and what a creative God! Go outside and view Creation. Take notes with words or by drawing pictures of things you see that God created. Share ideas when you get back inside. Use trade books (I have some that are about Creation.) Read verses from Psalms. Sing “What a Mighty God We Serve” and go right into “My God is so Big!”

Some references: Psalm 8:1, 3; 19:1-6; 24:1-2; 90:2; 104:5, 10, 11, 13, 14, 18-24, 31; 136:4-9; 147:8-9, 16-18; Psalm 148.

**God – His names and attributes**

List and discuss names of God. Think of magnifying God and His name. (O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together. Psalm 34:3) When we magnify something with a magnifying glass it looks bigger. So - when we magnify God we make Him bigger, or we realize His greatness. Use a magnifying glass to look at objects and see how it makes them look bigger. Relate this to magnifying God’s name – how can we magnify the Lord? How can we make Him bigger? How can we show and share that greatness?

God’s name is special! Show objects to illustrate names – rock (Rock), weights (Stronghold, strong tower), flashlight (light), sheep (shepherd), crown (King), castle (fortress). Discuss the 10 Commandments relating to God’s name – the third commandment, Exodus 20:7. Discuss the importance of keeping God’s name special and making His name special. (I talk about other words that are sometimes used instead of God’s name and that are disrespectful and do not keep God’s name special, and how we do not want to use those words. I do tell my students that I am not saying these words to be using them, but to let them know about them – gee, golly, gosh, etc.) Make a special name card by giving each student an index card and asking them to choose one of the names for God. They write it large and neatly on the card and “make it special” by putting glitter on it or using glitter glue on it. They could also do this by using markers or special colored pencils and decorating the card and making it all special to remember how God’s name is special. We make a list of names before doing this project; older students could scan through the psalms, or through assigned chapters, to find the names on their own or with partners.

Some references from Psalms: God of my righteousness 4:1; my King, my God 5:2; Lord 5:3; most High 9:2; refuge 9:9; rock, fortress, deliverer, strength, buckler, horn of my salvation, high tower 18:2; God of my salvation 18:46; shepherd 23:1; light, salvation, strength 27:1; shield 28:7; Lord my God 40:5; God of my life 42:8; God my rock 42:9; mighty God 50:1; God of Israel 68:35; Lord God of hosts 69:6; good, ready to forgive, plenteous in mercy 86:5; gracious, longsuffering, plenteous in mercy and truth, full of compassion 86:15; dwelling place 90:1; most High, Almighty 91:1; refuge, fortress 91:2; rock of my salvation 95:1; great God, great King 95:3; our maker 95:6; God of my praise 109:1

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**A FEAST**

We did this at the conclusion of a study on the Bible, God’s Word. I said that the Bible is like a feast, and asked the children how the Bible could be like a feast. I listed their answers on the board. We read verses about the Bible, and then I spread a “feast” of snacks out on the table and told the children to help themselves. “This is a feast – eat as much as you want!” We developed the idea that we have God’s Word before us – we should feast upon it and freely help ourselves!

Verses: Jeremiah 15:16, Psalm 119:9, 11, 16, 89, 97, 103, 105, 114, 130.

Ideas from my first graders -

How the Bible is like a feast:

It’s overflowing with good stuff and verses

It spreads out.

It fills you up.

Lots of people go to the feast.

Lots of verses and food

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**WORDS**

Show a stick and a rock, and say the little rhyme “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” Ask, “Is this true?” and discuss what it means and elicit the idea that it really is not true, as words can hurt us! Words may not make us bleed and they may not break our bones, but they can hurt our feelings. As one of my students said, “Words can hurt our hearts!”

Discuss how words affect us and list good words and words that will build up and encourage people. Ideas for using these good words:

* Write good words on sticky notes, have the children stick good wrods to their desks and then look for opportunities to use these words. (Good job! Thank you. That looks nice., etc.)
* Make cards with good words to encourage someone in the class, someone in the school, someone from church, missionaries, etc.
* Draw a heart and list good words in it.
* Write good words on stones and use as paper weights or reminders to use the good words and not the “stones” of hurtful words.

Read and discuss Bible verses regarding our words/speech: Proverbs 12:25, Isaiah 50:4, Proverbs 25:11