

# God Takes Elijah to Heaven

2 Kings 2:1-15



**Worship Theme:**



God rewards faithfulness.

**Weaving Faith Into Life:**



Children will be faithful in different aspects of their lives.

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<p><b>1</b> Let's Praise God! (up to 25 minutes)</p>	<p><b>Sing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Praise Him" (track 5)</li> <li>• "Your Word Is a Lamp" (Psalm 119:105) (track 10)</li> <li>• "Give as Freely" (Matthew 10:8) (track 18)</li> <li>• "For the Glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31) (track 17)</li> <li>• "Sing Unto the Lord" (track 9)</li> <li>• "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" (track 1)</li> </ul>	<p><b>KidsOwn Worship Kit:</b> <i>Songs From FaithWeaver</i></p> <p><b>Classroom Supplies:</b> CD player</p> 

**Preschool**

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<p><b>2</b> Let's Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)</p>	<p><b>Faithful Phil</b> Role-play with palm puppets.</p>	<p><b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Washable marker, fish-shaped crackers, wet wipes</p>
	<p><b>Elijah Goes to Heaven</b> Use their fingers to participate in the telling of the Bible story.</p>	<p><b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Bible</p>
	<p><b>Faithful Song</b> Sing a song about being faithful.</p>	

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<b>2</b> Let's Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)	<b>* Faithful Collages</b> Make collages of the story.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Bibles, white paper, construction paper, glue, tape, rewards such as candy or stickers
	<b>* Bags of Faithfulness</b> Use clues to answer questions about faithfulness.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Bible, newsprint, marker, paper bags, fruit, paper hearts, coins, paper, pen, tape, colorful ribbons
	<b>* Honor and Praise</b> Worship God with music and a symbol of eternal life.	<b>KidsOwn Worship Kit:</b> <i>Songs From FaithWeaver:</i> " 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" (track 1)   <b>Classroom Supplies:</b> CD player, ribbon ring from "Bags of Faithfulness"

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<b>3</b> Let's Pray! (up to 10 minutes)	<b>The Offering</b> Offer their gifts to God.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Offering bowls
	<b>Ask for Help</b> Spend time in quiet prayer.	
	<b>Faithfulness Commitment</b> Sing a song, and thank God for rewarding thankfulness.	<b>KidsOwn Worship Kit:</b> <i>Songs From FaithWeaver:</i> "Give of Your Best to the Master" (track 3)   <b>Classroom Supplies:</b> CD player

\* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.

Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Let's Learn the Point!

Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.

# God Takes Elijah to Heaven

2 Kings 2:1-15

After God chose Elisha to succeed Elijah as prophet in Israel, Elisha immediately became Elijah's attendant. Ahab and Jezebel continued in their evil ways, and Elijah pronounced God's judgment on them. Eventually Ahab was killed in battle and was replaced as king of Israel by Ahaziah. Ahaziah ruled only two years before he died, having been punished by God for consulting Baal instead of God (2 Kings 1:16-17). Joram succeeded Ahaziah as king.

We don't know how Elisha knew what was about to happen, but apparently he realized that his mentor, Elijah, would soon be taken to heaven. Elisha was totally committed to staying with Elijah until the very end.

We know of three companies of prophets that existed during the days of Elijah and Elisha. It appears that Elijah visited each of these companies one last time before he was taken to heaven. Elijah's suggestion that he go on without Elisha after visiting each of these places may have been intended to test Elisha's faithfulness. Or perhaps Elijah merely wanted to be alone. Elisha, however, refused to forgo his last hours with Elijah. He wanted to benefit as much as possible from Elijah before Elijah went to be with God. Elisha's persistence was rewarded when Elijah asked what he could do for Elisha before he was taken to heaven.

Elisha's request for a double portion of Elijah's spirit was likely based on inheritance rules of the day, which entitled the oldest son to a double portion of his father's estate. Elisha, succeeding Elijah as prophet in Israel, wanted that double portion of God's power to help him face his responsibilities as spiritual leader of the nation.

God had supported and protected Elijah throughout his ministry. As Elisha witnessed the heavenly host, in the form of a chariot of fire and horses of fire, take Elijah home to God, Elisha was allowed to see God's spiritual forces at work. The

whirlwind and fire were signs of the power and presence of God.

Elijah was the second person in the Old Testament to never experience death. As with Enoch before him, he was simply taken to heaven (Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5).

Elijah had thrown his cloak around Elisha's shoulders when he first called Elisha to join him (1 Kings 19:19). After Elijah ascended to heaven, Elisha picked up Elijah's cloak, symbolizing Elisha's full assumption of Elijah's ministry. Elisha tested how fully the power of God was with him—and demonstrated it to all who could see—when he parted the water of the Jordan by striking it with the cloak. Elisha had been faithful to Elijah and to God, and God rewarded him with the strength he would need to minister as a prophet amid the evil conditions that existed in Israel.

## **Devotion for Leaders**

Like Elijah, Jesus departed this earth fully alive. When Jesus left, he gave his Holy Spirit to those who would carry on his ministry. As followers of Jesus, we also are clothed in his favor and his power!

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** In this passage, Elisha pledges his faithfulness to Elijah three times. In your Bible, underline these three expressions of Elisha's loyalty to Elijah. Spend a moment in prayer to express your commitment to follow and serve Christ. Then ask Jesus to empower you to keep your commitment and serve his plans here on earth.

## Why We Worship for Leaders

Today we worship God because he rewards faithfulness. God wants us to be faithful the way he is faithful. The Bible is full of shining examples of God's faithfulness to us. Unfortunately, there are not as many examples of man's faithfulness to God. Revelation 2:10 tells us that if we are faithful to the end, we will receive the crown of life. Help the children worship God because he rewards our faithfulness.

## Easy Prep for Leaders

### Bags of Faithfulness

- Write these questions on newsprint or a white board:
  - What is faithfulness?
  - Why does God want us to be faithful?
  - How does God reward faithfulness?
- For each group of three children, you'll need three bags containing these items:
  - In one bag put a slip of paper attached to a piece of fruit. The paper should have the words of Galatians 5:22-23a written on it.
  - One bag should contain a slip of paper attached to a paper heart. The paper should have the words of 1 Corinthians 1:9 written on it.
  - One bag should contain a slip of paper attached to a coin. The paper should have the words of Proverbs 28:20a written on it.

**Preschool Activities**—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

**Web Help**—Get bonus leader tips and ideas at [kidsownworship.com](http://kidsownworship.com).



## 1 Let's Praise God!

Play *Songs From FaithWeaver, Fall 2010* as children arrive. Greet children by name, shake each hand, and say "Congratulations!" Ask each child who comes in to greet another person with warm congratulations. Don't explain further until you start the session.

Once everyone has arrived, begin worship.

**Say**

**Congratulations, everyone! You may be wondering why you've received congratulations today. It's because God rewards faithfulness, and you've been faithful to come to children's church today. Faithfulness is a very important quality to God. He wants us to be faithful in the morning, in the noontime, and when the sun goes down. Let's sing our faithful praise to God right now.**

Sing "Praise Him."



Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Ask** • **How can you be faithful to God in the morning? at noontime? when the sun goes down?** (Put God first; pray during the day; look for what God wants me to do.)

**Say** **One way to be faithful to God is to follow him, to let him guide us step by step.**

Sing "Your Word Is a Lamp" (Psalm 119:105).



Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** **When we're faithful about following God, God rewards us even if we're not the best. God rewards us for being faithful even if we're not like everyone else. Let's sing "Give as Freely" and tell God that we want to faithfully do our best for him.**

Sing "Give as Freely" (Matthew 10:8).



Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** **One of the reasons God wants us to be faithful to him is that God is faithful to us. God is always faithful to us. We can praise God for his faithfulness with our next song, "For the Glory of God."**

Sing "For the Glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).



Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** **God is even faithful in rewarding us for our faithfulness.**

**Ask** • **How does God reward our faithfulness?** (God forgives our sins; God gives us eternal life; God encourages us.)

**Say** **Let's continue to praise God with joyfulness as we sing because he rewards our faithfulness. One way to express our joy is through our bodies. Let's express our joy by doing the motions to "Sing Unto the Lord."**

Sing "Sing Unto the Lord."



Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** **God faithfully rewards our faithfulness no matter what. God is faithful when things are going well and when things are not going well. Even when things are not going well, we can still trust God and be faithful to him. God rewards us when we stay faithful, even when we go through hard times. Let's sing "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."**

Sing "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus."



Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Pray** **God, we thank you for being faithful to us in everything. We want to be faithful to you, too. Thank you for rewarding faithfulness. In Jesus' name, amen.**

**Preschool Activities, pages 159-160**

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let's Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (\*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

**Elementary Activities****\* Faithful Collages**

**Say** Our Bible story tells us about two faithful leaders who were rewarded for their faithfulness. All of you have an opportunity to become faithful leaders in telling the Bible story today.

Have the children form three groups, and distribute Bibles, white paper, construction paper, and glue to each group.

**Say** Our story comes from 2 Kings 2:1-15. Each of you is going to have a part in telling this story. We're going to make story collages with torn pieces of construction paper. Assign five verses to each group.

**Read your five verses aloud to each other. Take a minute to discuss what is happening and what the verses mean. Then tear your construction paper into pieces, and glue pieces to the white paper to represent the part of the story your group has been assigned.**

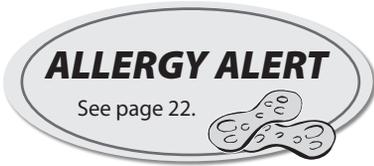
If the groups need ideas, suggest a whirlwind for verses 1-5, Elijah's cloak for verses 6-10, and a chariot of fire for verses 11-15.

**Say** After you finish your collage, your group will tell your part of the story to the whole group. Take a minute to decide who will tell what part of the story. When the collages are done, ask groups to display them and tell their part of the story. Tape the collages to the wall.

**You were each given an assignment to represent the Bible story with your collage. Each of you had a part to play. You were faithful in carrying out that assignment. Our Faithful Collages help us remember the faithfulness of the people in the story and how God rewarded their faithfulness.**

**Ask**

- Who was faithful to God in our Bible story today? (Elijah; Elisha.)
- How were Elijah and Elisha rewarded for their faithfulness? (God took Elijah to heaven; God made Elisha a prophet.)



**Say** ➤ Elijah and Elisha each had a leadership part to play in God's kingdom. Every one of us is a leader in God's kingdom when we are faithful and do what God asks us to do. Just as each of you had a part to play in making the collage and telling the story, each of us has a part to play in God's kingdom.

**Ask** ➤ • How does God ask us to be faithful today? (We should tell people about him; we should do things he asks us to do.)

**Say** ➤ God rewards faithfulness. You all faithfully helped me tell the Bible story. Here is your reward. Distribute candy, stickers, or another reward.

God rewarded Elijah for his faithfulness by taking him to heaven. God rewarded Elisha for his faithfulness by giving him a double portion of Elijah's spirit and making him a leader like Elijah. A double portion means that Elisha was able to do even more for God than Elijah. We thank God today because he rewards our faithfulness.

### \* *Bags of Faithfulness*

**Say** ➤ Now that we know that God rewards us for faithfulness, let's try to answer three questions.

- Ask** ➤
- What is faithfulness?
  - Why does God want us to be faithful?
  - How does God reward faithfulness?

Display the questions written on the newsprint or white board. Have kids form groups of three, and show them the paper bags you prepared.

**Say** ➤ There are clues in these paper bags that will help you answer the questions. First, pass the bags around in your groups. When a bag comes to you, reach in and feel what's inside to see if you can answer any of the questions just by feeling. Then take the contents out of the bags and look at them.

Distribute the paper bags. Allow the groups to discuss their answers and present their thoughts to the large group.

**Say** ➤ Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit. It is one of the things that the Holy Spirit develops in us as we grow to become more like Christ. God wants us to be faithful, because he is faithful. God has called us into fellowship with Jesus. Jesus is faithful. God rewards us with blessings when we are faithful.

- Ask** ➤
- We used a coin to represent blessings, but what other kinds of blessings does God give to reward faithfulness besides money? (Family; friends; happiness.)
  - What is the biggest and best reward God gives us for faithfulness? (God lets us live with him forever.)

Read Revelation 2:10b aloud: "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10b).

(continued on page 161)

# God Takes Elijah to Heaven

Session 12

2 Kings 2:1-15

## Worship Theme:



God rewards faithfulness.

## Easy Prep for Leaders

None necessary.

## Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo sing with the children in "Faithful Song."
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today's worship session.



## Faithful Phil

Draw a smiley face on the palm of your hand. Show children the smiley face.

**Say** I'd like you to meet Faithful Phil. Say hello to Phil.

**Phil has funny, sticky-uppey hair.** Wiggle your fingers to show the "hair." **Phil is called Faithful Phil because he's faithful. Let's make a Faithful Phil on your hands, too.** Draw a face on each child's palm. **Let's see why we call him Faithful Phil.** Draw a sad face on your other hand to represent Not Faithful Nellie. Draw the sad face on the children's palms. **Faithful Phil and Not Faithful Nellie were told to clean up their rooms. Not Faithful Nellie ran out to play instead.** Demonstrate with your hand.

**Ask** • What did Faithful Phil do?

**Say** He stayed to clean up his room. Show me how your Faithful Phil cleans up his room. (Pause.)

**One day, Faithful Phil's friend Mark asked Phil to pray for him. Show me with your hands what Faithful Phil did that night when he went to bed.** (Pause.)

**The next day, Faithful Phil's mom made some cookies. She gave some to Faithful Phil and told him to share them with his friend Mark. Faithful Phil went outside to find Mark, but he found Not Faithful Nellie first. Not Faithful Nellie wanted to eat all the cookies before they found Mark.** Demonstrate with your Not Faithful

Nellie hand. **Faithful Phil gave one to Nellie, then he found Mark. Show me with your hands what Faithful Phil did with the cookies.**

**We saw how Faithful Phil acted. He showed us how to be faithful.**

**Ask** • What does it mean to be faithful?

• What are some ways you can be like Faithful Phil and be faithful?

**Say** Open your Faithful Phil hand if you think Faithful Phil should get a reward because he was faithful. Go around the room, and pour fish-shaped crackers into each child's open hand. **These are Phil's fish. They are his reward for faithfulness.**

**Ask** • How does God reward faithfulness?

**Say** God rewards faithfulness in many ways. The Bible tells us that the faithful will receive blessings.

**Ask** • What is a blessing?

• Can you name some blessings that God has given you?

### ALLERGY ALERT



Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to read food labels carefully as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.

## Faithful Phil (continued)

**Say** Another way God rewards faithful people is with eternal life. People who follow and love God get to live forever with God in heaven. Let's say thank you to God because he rewards our faithfulness.

Have the children say, "Thank you, God," with you.

**Say** Let's learn about a man in the Bible who was faithful.

## Elijah Goes to Heaven

Open your Bible to 2 Kings 2:1-15.

**Say** We're going to use our hands to tell our Bible story. It's about two men. You do what I do, and we will tell the story together. Raise the index finger on your right hand. There once was a prophet of God called Elijah. This is Elijah. There was another man named Elisha who loved God and served Elijah. Raise the index finger on your other hand.

Let's practice saying their names—Elijah and Elisha. When we say their names, make your Elijah finger and your Elisha finger take a bow. Bend each index finger. Elijah was faithful and did everything God asked him to do. Make your Elijah finger "walk" about. God wanted to take Elijah up to heaven to reward him for his faithfulness. Make the Elijah finger jump up and down and say, "Oh, boy! Oh, boy!"

Elisha (hold up your Elisha finger) wanted to serve God the way Elijah did. Elijah told him that if he saw God take Elijah up to heaven he would get his wish. Hold up your Elijah finger.

God took Elijah up to heaven in a chariot of fire. Raise your Elijah finger higher and higher. Stand to wave it high in the air. Say this with me as you raise your finger, "In a chariot of fire, Elijah went higher and higher." Raise your Elisha finger.

Elisha did see it, and God rewarded him.

As Elijah went up into heaven, his coat fell down to Elisha. Elisha picked it up. Make the Elisha finger bend down as if to pick up the coat. Elisha dipped it in the river, and the river parted, or opened up, like this. Demonstrate with both hands as if pulling the waters back.

Let's use our hands to clap and say, "Praise the Lord for his reward!"

**Ask** • Who did God reward for his faithfulness?

**Say** Now use your hand to tell God that you want to be faithful, too. Raise your Elijah hand if you want to be faithful to God. Say with me, "God, I'll be faithful to you in all that I do."

**Pray** God, we thank you for rewarding faithfulness. Help us to be faithful to you always. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Faithful Song

**Say** Let's tell God that we want to be faithful with a prayer song.

Sing these words to the tune of "Praise Him."

**Sing** Faithful, faithful,  
Faithful in the morning,  
Faithful in the noontime;  
Faithful, faithful,  
I'll be faithful when the sun goes down.

After you sing the song through once, ask three children when or where they'll be faithful. Insert their answers in the verse. For example,

Faithful, faithful,  
Faithful at my preschool,  
Faithful on the playground;  
Faithful, faithful,  
Faithful when I'm at home.

Close with a prayer, asking God to help each child be faithful.

(continued from page 158)

**Ask** • **What does this verse mean?** (If we're faithful all our lives, we can live with God in heaven.)

**Say** **In Bible times, a winning athlete was given a garland crown as a reward. A crown is in the form of a circle. It has no end.**

**Ask** • **How is a ring like eternal life?** (It has no end.)

Distribute a colorful ribbon to each child and keep one. Tie your piece of ribbon to someone else's ribbon. Continue tying until all the ribbons are tied into one big circle. Place the ring on the floor in the center of the room.

**Say** **Our ring symbolizes the eternal life that God gives us as a reward for being faithful.**

### \* *Honor and Praise*

**Say** **Let's stand in a circle around our ribbon ring. Everyone gently pick up the ring as we sing " 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus." We'll use it to praise God for rewarding our faithfulness with eternal life.**

Sing " 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus," leading kids in the following movements for both verses.



**'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,**

*(Lift the ring above everyone's head.)*

**Just to take him at his word,**

*(With the ring lifted, sway gently right and left.)*

**Just to rest upon his promise,**

*(Slowly lower the ring to waist height and then raise it high again.)*

**Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."**

*(With the ring lifted, sway gently right and left.)*

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!**

*(Walk to the right.)*

**How I've proved him o'er and o'er!**

*(Walk to the left.)*

**Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!**

*(With the ring lifted, sway gently right and left.)*

**O for grace to trust him more!**

*(Lower the ring to the floor.)*

**Pray** **God, we thank you for your awesome reward of eternal life. Thank you for rewarding our faithfulness. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## 3 **Let's Pray!**

### *The Offering*

**Say** **We've learned that God wants us to be faithful and that he rewards our faithfulness. God faithfully gives to us. We have everything we need because God gives it all to us. God also gave us a friendship with his Son, Jesus. When we commit to being Jesus' friend, he will be our friend forever.**



One thing we can do faithfully is give back to God. We can give an offering of our money, our time, or our praise to God. Let's take the offering now. If you haven't brought a money offering today, tell God how you will faithfully serve him this week, or tell God how you will faithfully praise him this week.

### *Ask for Help*

**Say** It's not always easy to be faithful to God. Sometimes we would rather do something else and be unfaithful. That's why we need to ask for help. Let's take a minute to ask for God's help. Quiet your heart and mind for a minute. Find a spot on the floor where you can sit with God and imagine you are alone with him. In your own words, ask him to help you be faithful this week and always.



### *Faithfulness Commitment*

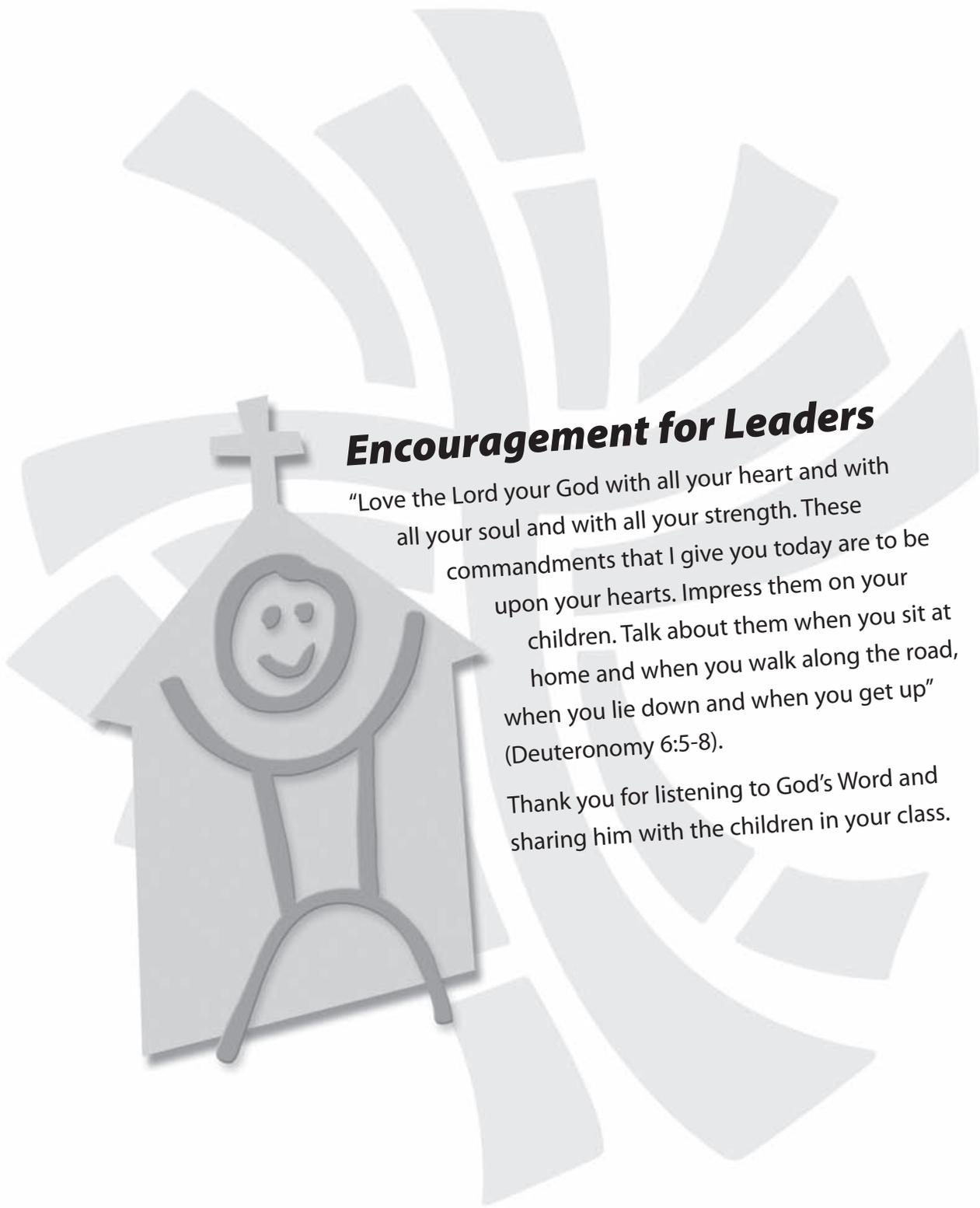
**Say** Raise your hand if you'd like to make a commitment to be faithful to God. Stand if you'd like to start this week. Let's form a circle. We'll join hands to sing our commitment to be faithful to God. Let's sing "Give of Your Best to the Master" to promise God that we'll be faithful.

Sing "Give of Your Best to the Master."

Lyrics are in the back of this book.



**Pray** God, we thank you for being faithful to us. We thank you for helping us be faithful to you. We thank you for rewarding faithfulness. In Jesus' name, amen.

A stylized illustration of a person with a cross on their head, set against a background of radiating lines. The person is depicted in a simple, rounded style with a smiling face. The background consists of several curved, overlapping bands that create a sense of movement and light.

## **Encouragement for Leaders**

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6:5-8).

Thank you for listening to God’s Word and sharing him with the children in your class.