



PUZZLE PIECES | WEEK 2 | NOVEMBER 10, 2024

## Preschool Lesson

# Pillars of Cloud and Fire

**Bible Story:** *Pillars of Cloud and Fire* • I can trust God will show me the way • *Exodus 13:3-4, 21-22*

**Memory Verse:** “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.” Proverbs 3:5, NIV

**Key Question:** Who’s got it?

**Bottom Line:** God’s got it.

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

### LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*Puzzles are a lot of fun. Who doesn't love a good peg puzzle? The cow goes in the cow shape. The pig goes in the pig shape. Easy, peasy! But as we get older, puzzles can become a lot more difficult, and it can be hard to know where each piece goes. We all face difficult circumstances that are way bigger than what we can handle. It's in those times that God wants us to trust Him with all our hearts and say, "God's got it!"*

*We don't have to have all the pieces or know where they all go. All we need to know is that God sees the big picture and God's got it. Our job is to trust God and take it one piece at a time. So, whether it's needing help with a big job, knowing which way to go, not having what we need, or talking to God about anything . . . God can handle it, because God's got it!*

**Story Focus:** I can trust God will show me the way. God loves the Israelites so much that God promises to lead them to a new home. This home will have all the food they will need. God calls it a land ‘flowing with milk and honey.’ But how do they find their new home? God shows up in a big way. God leads the people with a pillar of cloud in the day and a pillar of fire at night. God shows His people the way to go and never leaves them. God stays right in front of them, morning and night, because God’s got it.

### Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

### Morning Flow



## KID CONNECT

### WELCOME TIME

#### (VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

### OPENING ACTIVITY

#### (No Supplies)

Kid Connect time is spent building relationships with the kids. Gather your small group together for some intentional connecting time before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or building with blocks) or just sit and listen to each other. Ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

*Transition to Large Group...*

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN

#### (VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

### SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

#### (CG: EXPECTATION SLIDE, BASIC TRUTHS SLIDE, MEMORY VERSE VIDEO; BIBLE)

LGL: "Hello my friends! How are you today? Come and sit with me. I am so glad you are here! My name is [your name]. I'm excited to spend time with you today! We are getting ready to sing and dance and hear a true story from the Bible. Before we do let's go over our rules and truths.

"Here in KidCity we have three rules. How many rules do we have? (*Kids respond.*) That's right! Three rules. Let's go over our rules now. (*List rules while counting on fingers*)

1. **Be kind.** We can be kind by using our indoor speaking voices, by staying on our blankets (or whatever space you have), and by obeying our leaders.
2. **Be safe.** We can be safe by walking around the classroom and keeping our hands to ourselves.
3. **Have fun!** We are going to have SO much fun, and that's because you are here!

“Can everybody follow those rules today? *(Kids respond.)* Great! KidCity is a place where we learn about God and Jesus! And there are three big truths that we want you to know. Let’s say them all together! Are you ready?”

1. I am made by God. What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
2. I am loved by God no matter what. What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
3. I am made for a purpose! What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*

“It’s time for our memory verse. Let’s watch our memory verse motions and do it along with them!”

*Show memory verse motion video and then practice without it.*

‘Trust *(tug a pretend rope)*  
in the Lord *(point up)*  
with all your heart,’ *(tap heart twice)*  
Proverbs 3:5.” *(Open hands like a book.)*

“Ok, now let’s sing and worship God!”

## WORSHIP

**(VIDEO: GOD’S GOT IT, JESUS NO MATTER WHAT)**

Sing the worship songs together.

## INTRO SKETCH

**(2-Piece Puzzle for Current Week (W1 Moses, W2 Israelites, W3 Elijah, W4 King Hezekiah), Plastic Page Protector, Beginner’s Bible and Story Box)**

*LGL brings the story box with the prop and Bible to the center of the room. You should have a 2-piece puzzle for the current week’s story. Ensure the bottom (feet) half of the puzzle is already inserted in the plastic page protector. Keep the top (head) half of the puzzle in the story box until after the story video.*

“I have my story box ready. I’m SO excited to see what we are learning about God today. Let’s see what I have in here…”

*Pull out the Bible*

What is this? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, it’s the Bible! The Bible is God’s word and God’s word is always true. The Bible has many stories that make one BIG story, and we (you and me) are part of that story. Let’s see what else is in our story box today.

*Pull out the page protect with the bottom (feet) puzzle piece.*

What is this? *(Pause for responses.)* YES, it’s a puzzle or a piece of a puzzle. What do you see on



this puzzle piece? *(Pause for responses.)* YES, that's what I see too. I see feet! I see lots of feet. Do you think there is just one person on this puzzle *(Pause for responses.)* No. There is more than one person on this puzzle. Do you think our story will tell us who the people are? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, I think it will too. Let's get our eyes and ears ready so we can listen to our story and find out who is on our puzzle.

Let's click on our listening ears (tug on each ear, one at a time, as you make a click, click sound), let's put on our looking eyes (bring your hands, one at a time, to your eyes like binoculars as you say shook, shook) and let's put our hands that have been move and praising Jesus quietly in our laps.

Now we are ready. Let's watch today's true Bible story."

## WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

**(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)**

"Wow! That was an amazing story! Who do you think is on our puzzle? *(Pause for responses.)* Let's put the top piece on our puzzle *(Pull out the 2<sup>nd</sup> piece of the puzzle from the story and match it to the bottom puzzle piece in the page protector.)* It's the Israelites! The Israelites trusted God and God showed the people the way to go. God will show us the way to go too because **[Bottom Line]** God's got it!"

When I ask, 'Who's got it?' I want you to say, **[Bottom Line]** 'God's got it!' Are you ready? *(Pause for responses.)* 'Who's got it?' **[Bottom Line]** 'God's got it!' YES! **[Bottom Line]** God's got it!"

## SAY THE BASIC TRUTH

**(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE)**

Let's look at our Basic Truth for today. It says, 'I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me. Just like Israelites trusted God. We can trust God too.'

## PRAY

"Let's get our hands ready to pray. *Open them close them, open them close them, give a little clap. Open them, close them, open them, close them, fold them in your lap.*

God, thank you for showing the Israelites where to go with the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire. They trusted you and we can trust you too. In Jesus' name. Amen."

## TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

## SMALL GROUP

**Bible Story:** *Pillars of Cloud and Fire* • I can trust God will show me the way • *Exodus 13:3-4, 21-22*

**Memory Verse:** “Trust in the Lord with all your heart.” Proverbs 3:5, NIV

**Key Question:** Who’s got it?

**Bottom Line:** God’s got it.

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

## DAY AND NIGHT

(“Day and Night” Activity Page on Cardstock (2-Sided on the Short-Edge) – 1 per group)

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Copy “Day and Night” 2-Sided Activity Page on Cardstock, one per group.

*During the Activity:* Encourage children to do daytime activities: stacking, walking, eating, etc., while the Pillar of Cloud (Day) picture is shown, and lights are on. When you show the Pillar of Fire (Night) picture and/or dim/turn the lights off (*optional*), encourage children to sleep. Repeat as desired.

*After the Activity:* Review the Bible Story.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “Friends, come stand over here with me. We are going to use our imagination today!

*During the Activity:* “When the sun is out shining, we get to do lots of different things—like play outside, visit with friends, and play with all of our toys. But when it’s nighttime, we go to sleep. Let’s pretend it’s daytime and nighttime. When I hold up the Pillar of Clouds (Day) picture and the lights are on, we’ll play and walk and hop. But when I hold up the Pillar of Fire (Night) picture and the lights are off (*optional*), we’ll pretend to go to sleep. Are you ready, friends? Let’s get started!

- It’s daytime (*hold up the Pillar of Cloud (Day) picture*), so let’s pretend play and stack blocks. (Pause.) The day has come to an end and it’s getting dark. Let’s clean up the blocks and put them back in the bin. (Optional: turn the lights down or off.) It’s nighttime (*hold up the Pillar of Fire (Night) picture*). Let’s stretch our arms and yawn and lay down and go to sleep. (Pause.)
- Okay friends, it’s daytime again! Time to wake up! (*hold up the Pillar of Cloud (Day) picture*)! The sun is shining, I hear the birds singing “tweet, tweet”, it’s a beautiful day to go for a walk. Let’s pretend to walk in the grass and pick some flowers. The day has come to an end and it’s getting dark. (Optional: turn the lights down or off.) It’s nighttime (*hold up the Pillar of Fire (Night) picture*). Let’s stretch our arms and yawn and lay down and go to sleep. (Pause.)
- Time to wake up! It’s daytime! (*hold up the Pillar of Cloud (Day) picture*)! It’s time to brush

your teeth and get ready to play. We have some hopping to do. Let's pretend to put on our shoes and hop, hop, hop. The day has come to an end and it's getting dark. (Optional: turn the lights down or off.) It's nighttime (*hold up the Pillar of Fire (Night) picture*). Let's stretch our arms and yawn and lay down and go to sleep. (Pause.)

- It's daytime again! (*hold up the Pillar of Cloud (Day)*) Let's eat a good breakfast, so we have energy for the day. Let's peel a banana and eat our cereal. Let's jump high and let's jump low. The day has come to an end and it's getting dark. (Optional: turn the lights down or off.) It's nighttime (*hold up the Pillar of Fire (Night) picture*). Let's stretch our arms and yawn and lay down and go to sleep. (Pause.)
- The sun is shining! The day is here! Time to wake up! (*Hold up the Pillar of Cloud (Day.)*) Let's put on our smile and get ready to say "hello" to our friend and dance to music. *Amazing dancing!* That was so much fun!

*After the Activity:* "In our story, we learned that God loved the Israelites so much He promised to lead them to a new home. God had a very special way to show them the way to go—in a way only God could do. Why? Because God's got it! God gave the Israelites a pillar of cloud to follow during the day. And when it got dark and they couldn't see the cloud, God gave them a pillar of fire to show them the way. God led them by cloud in the day and by fire at night. God stayed in front of them, showing them the way to go! God is SO amazing! He can do anything! We can trust God because **[Bottom Line] God's got it! Who's got it? [Bottom Line] God's got it!**"

## IN THE AIR

**(Parachute/Large Sheet – 1 per group, (20-30) Cotton Balls per group, (15-20) 12" Strips of Red Crepe Paper Streamers per group)**

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Count 20-30 cotton balls and place in a plastic bag. Cut streamers into 12" lengths, at least one per child, and place in another bag separate from the cotton balls.

*During the Activity:* Add the cotton balls and the streamers to the parachute separately as indicated to represent the pillar of cloud (day) and the pillar of fire (night).

*After the Activity:* Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Hey, friends! I want to do something fun to remember our story. Let's come over and play with this parachute. Everyone, grab a spot/handle. Let's shake the parachute. Great! Now let's go down to the floor with the parachute. Then, let's pop it up to the sky. Ready . . . one . . . two . . . three, up! Great job!"

*During the Activity:* "Now I'm going to add these cotton balls. (Toss cotton balls onto the parachute.) The cotton balls can remind us of the pillar of cloud that led God's people during the day. Let's take the parachute down to the floor. Then, at the count of three, let's pop it up and see the clouds go into the sky. Ready? One . . . two . . . three! (Pause.) Wow! Did you see the clouds in the air? Let's gather the clouds and pop them into the sky one more time. Ready? One . . . two . . . three! (Pause.) So cool! Let's gather the clouds and put them back in the bag."

Do you remember what God gave the Israelites to follow at night when it got dark, and they couldn't see the cloud? (Pause.) Yes, he gave them a pillar of fire. Now I'm going to add these red streamers to our parachute. (Toss the streamers onto the parachute.) These streamers can remind us of the pillar of fire that led God's people at night. Let's take the parachute down to the floor. Then, at the count of three, let's pop it up and see the fire go into the sky. Ready? One . . . two . . . three! (Pause.) Wow! Did you see the fire in the air? Let's pick up the fire and pop them into the sky one more time. Ready? One . . . two . . . three! (Pause.) So good! Let's pull all the fire back into the bag." (Repeat as desired.)

*After the Activity:* "That was so fun. I loved seeing the clouds and fire fly through the air. In our Bible Story, God showed His people, the Israelites, the way to go with the pillar of cloud during the day and when it got dark at night, God led the way with a pillar of fire. God showed the way because **[Bottom Line] God's got it!** We can always trust God to show us the way. We can always trust in God because **[Bottom Line] God's got it. Who's got it? [Bottom Line] God's got it!**"

## MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

**(Memory Verse Motions Poster - 1 per group)**

Say the memory verse using motions from the Memory Verse Motions poster. Repeat several times and encourage children for their efforts.

'Trust (tug a pretend rope)  
in the Lord (point up)  
with all your heart,' (tap heart twice)  
Proverbs 3:5." (Open hands like a book.)

## PRAY

"Let's pray together. (Have kids "put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap.")

God, thank you for always taking care of us and helping us know where to go and what to do—just like you helped your people know where to go with the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire. We love you. In Jesus' name. Amen."

## PARENT PICK UP ACTIVITY - COLORING SHEET

**(“Pillars of Cloud and Fire” Activity Page - 1 per child, Crayons)**

What You Do:

- Give each child a coloring page.
- As parents are picking up, encourage children to color their page as you read the words.

## CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

**(First Look Placemats - 1 per child)**

Hand out placemats and encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool lesson with their child this week.