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# REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

## Remembering and Celebrating God's Abundant Provision

### Inspire

*Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

My mom has a holiday tradition of asking questions while we sit around the dinner table. Each person poses a question, and the others answer. We ask questions such as, "Where do you see yourself in five years?" or "What is your favorite childhood memory?" Some questions elicit laughs; some evoke tears.

A few years ago, my family gathered at my parents' cabin in the woods. Together we remembered the questions we'd asked the year before. That year, we had wept together as we shared our hopes for the future, including the desire of my brother and his wife for a child. Now, we celebrated God's gracious answering of our prayers—my brother's baby boy was there.

In Ecclesiastes 3:1 and 4 we read, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens ... a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance." During our time together as a family, God made it possible for me to remember and celebrate His provision during both a period of weeping and a period of laughing.

*Tori Funkhouser*  
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### Equip

*Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

#### **Feast of Unleavened Bread: A Feast Celebrating God as Redeemer**

This festival, also known as the Feast of Pentecost or Weeks, corresponded with the nation's harvest season. Pentecost, which means "50," was celebrated 50 days after Passover and recognized when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. During this festival, the Israelites celebrated a season of gladness and thanked God for abundantly providing for their physical and spiritual needs—including a way into relationship with Him.

## Support

*Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

Philippians 4:8 reads, "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." In this verse, Paul encouraged the Philippians to continually remember and celebrate the good things that God has done and the good things He's created. He encouraged them to remember that God the provider had already given them many things over which to celebrate.

Take some time today and make a list, on paper or in your head, of the good things God has done for you. Then make a list of the good things you see around you—in nature, in your community, in your home, in the lives of your friends and family. Then praise God for these things, because He is the provider and the creator of everything good.

## EXPLORE::: 15 min.

### Small Group Leaders

*Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's biblical feast or festival as well as what they've learned about God in the past several weeks.*

## Match It Up

Children will play a fun matching game using familiar What'sIt images as they remember the things they know are true about God.

### SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Match It Up cards (see Resources)
- Match It Up legend (see Resources)
- Scissors
- Resealable bag

### PREPARE AHEAD

Print or copy the Match It Up cards and legend. Cut out the cards and place them in a resealable bag.

### SET UP

Place the cards picture-side-down on the table.

### RELATE

Welcome kids and explain how the game is played. **Each player will have an opportunity to find a match. When a match is found, I'll ask the group some questions about the matched picture. Everyone is free to join in the discussion. The game will continue until all the pictures are matched. Are you ready?**

### ASK

As a match is made, locate the picture on the leader Match It Up legend. Then ask the questions associated with the matched picture. (The dialogue below is provided as a guide.) You may choose to use the provided questions, or shorten the content to fit the conversations you're having in the moment.

- Ear (Samuel): **Who heard someone calling to him in The Big God Story?** Children answer. **Yes, Samuel heard someone calling to him. At first, he thought it was the priest Eli. But after it happened three times, Eli told Samuel that it was probably God speaking to Samuel. Did Samuel listen to God after that?** Pause for responses. **Yes, he did! God spoke to Samuel, and He speaks to us today too. It might not always be out loud, but He can speak to us through His Word, prayer, and even other people. God speaks.**
- Large Rock (Ebenezer): **Where in The Big God Story did we see a large rock?** Children respond. **Yes, we saw it in the part of The Big God Story where Samuel set up a large stone of remembrance. What was the rock called?** Children answer. **Yes, it was called "Ebenezer." That also means "Stone of Help." What did the people remember every time they saw this special rock? They remembered all the ways God had helped them, like when He freed them from slavery in Egypt or gave them victory in battles against their enemies. God is help.**
- Musical Instruments (Psalms): **Does anyone know how to play a musical instrument?** Pause for responses. **What might we use musical instruments for?** Kids answer. **One way we can use musical instruments is to worship God! What are other ways we can worship God?** Interact with responses. **Great answers. Just like we saw in the book of Psalms, we can worship God through prayer, writing, art, dancing, music, and more! God is worthy of worship.**
- Hammer (Solomon): **Where did we see a hammer in The Big God Story?** Children answer. **Yes, when King Solomon was building the temple as a place for the people to worship God. But did the people actually bring their hammers inside the temple?** Children respond. **No! King Solomon wanted to keep in quiet inside the temple, so the people used their noisy tools and hammers outside the temple. The people gave generously of their time, talents, and the things they owned to help build the temple. They knew God is worthy of worship.**
- Whisper (Elijah): **What do we call people who take God's messages to others?** Children answer. **Prophets! That's right. This prophet's name was Elijah. He took God's message to the king and queen, and the message made the queen so angry that Elijah had to run for his life. He went to a place where he thought he would be safe. God told Elijah to meet Him on the mountain. Then there came a windstorm, a great earthquake, and fire. Was God in any of those?** Children respond. **No. Then came a gentle whisper—that's how God called to Elijah. God is our safe place.**
- Bible (Josiah): **What is this a picture of?** Children answer. **That's right. It's what we call a Bible, or God's Word. Who became king when he wasn't much older than you?** Children answer. **Josiah, that's right. He had the temple cleaned up, and they uncovered a book that was God's Word. What do we find in God's Word?** Interact with children's responses. **King Josiah realized the people needed to change how they were living to follow God. What does this tell us about God? God's Word has power.**

## Large Group SECTION

### REMEMBER::: 30 min.

Host/Worship Leader

*Through a sequence of traditions and play, children are given the opportunity to pause and remember who God is.*

We'll remember God's faithfulness as we look back at what He has shown us about Himself from The Big God Story. Each time we remember together, we'll pause. Children will participate in traditions by connecting with one another and God through music, dance, song, and art as they worship together.

## Chloe's Rules

## SUPPLIES

- [Chloe's Rules Remember & Celebrate video](#)
- Worship songs (suggestions: "Thank You," TruWorship *Sincerely Yours* and "This Is the Day," TruWorship *Your Love*)

## RELATE

*Tech:* Play the *Chloe's Rules Remember & Celebrate video* (or use the puppet and script), then cue the preschool program theme song. As the song begins to play, the Worship Leader and Host will come to the stage, greeting kids throughout the song as they make their way up front. As the theme song ends, the Host will transition into introducing herself and the Worship Leader to the children. There should be friendly banter between them regarding their excitement about being there today. **We have so much to share and celebrate together!** *Tech:* Cue worship songs.

Worship Leader: **Today we're going to stop everything we normally do so we can spend some time remembering who God is and celebrating Him. Do you know what? This reminds me of what the people of Israel, from The Big God Story, would do to remember and celebrate God!**

Host: **What would they do?**

Worship Leader: **Well, the people would stop doing the things they did every day and have a festival to give honor and glory to God.**

Host: **That's what we're doing together today!**

Worship Leader: **You're right! One of the festivals God's people would celebrate was called the Feast of Harvest. A harvest is when you pick or gather the food you've grown. During this feast, the people made all kinds of food from what they gathered during the harvest.**

Host: **What else did they do?**

Worship Leader: **The people remembered and celebrated the many ways God had provided for them. They gave thanks to God as they remembered Him and celebrated together with their family and friends. And when it was time, the people would have a feast!**

Host: **Friends, how has God provided for us?** Invite kids to answer; interact with their responses. Encourage them by sharing some of the ways God provides for you.

Worship Leader: **Those are all great reasons to celebrate God. He provides so much for us. God provides for us in abundant ways.**

Host: **What does *abundant* mean?**

Worship Leader: ***Abundant* means that there's a lot of something. So, if I were to say that there was an abundant amount of sunshine today, that would mean ...**

Host: **That means there was a lot of sunshine, right? It's a really sunny day!**

Worship Leader: **Right!**

Host: **When the people gathered to tell God thank You for the abundant harvest of food, they also celebrated**

by saying thank You for something else.

Worship Leader: **That's right!**

Host: **The people would tell God how thankful they were to be in a relationship with Him. They would show Him their gratitude by celebrating Him as their God. They would remember and celebrate Him together!**

Worship Leader: **Let's not wait any longer. Let's remember all God has done and celebrate Him as the One who provides for us and who sets us free! Friends, let's pray and invite God into our time.** Open in prayer.

# The Big God Story

Host/Storyteller

## Game Cube

Today as you lead this time of remembering God through The Big God Story, you'll be using a Game Cube to facilitate the festivities.

### SUPPLIES

- Game Cube images (see Resources)
- Wacky Wardrobe Game sheet (see Resources)
- Intro clips: Let's Chat, Mail Time, Sound Effects, Music, Wacky Wardrobe, Wardrobe of Wonder (see Resources)
- Remember Verse images from Lessons 6–9 and 10–13 (see Resources)
- Call sound effect (see Resources)
- Earthquake sound effect (see Resources)
- What'sIt images: Ear, Large Rock, Musical Instruments, Hammer, Whisper, Bible (see Resources)
- Cardboard box (12" x 12")
- Envelope
- Celebratory worship songs (2–3, consider using kids' favorite songs; perhaps a "kids' choice" music option)
- Optional: glue and clear contact paper

### PREPARE AHEAD

Print or copy the Game Cube images, cut apart, and attach to the sides of the box. Optional: Use clear contact paper to cover the box once the pictures have been attached to help preserve the life of the images. Print or copy the Wacky Wardrobe Game sheet, fold, and place in an envelope. Label the envelope "Wacky Wardrobe Game." Work with your tech crew so they're ready to play intro clips when the corresponding side on the Game Cube is rolled, in addition to the other tech items.

### SET UP

Place the Wacky Wardrobe Game envelope in the Wardrobe of Wonder. Set the Game Cube on the stage/teaching area.

### RELATE

**Friends, look what I found waiting for us! It's game cube! We're going to remember what we've learned about God as we play this fun game. Each time we roll this cube, it will tell us what to do next. Let's take a look at our choices.** Review the sides of the cube, allowing the tech volunteer to cue the short intro clip. **Let's play!** Choose your first volunteer to roll the Game Cube.

### “Let’s Chat” Side

- Roll #1: Turn to the person next to you and tell her your favorite food.
- Roll #2: Turn to the person next to you and tell him what kinds of things you like to do in the summer.

### “Mail Time” Side

- Roll #1: *Tech: Cue Remember Verse image from Lessons 6–9. Let’s all stand and say our Remember Verse together in a baby voice. Ready, set, go.* Recite verse together. **Good job! Okay, you can all sit down again.**
- Roll #2: *Tech: Cue Remember Verse image from Lessons 10–13. Everyone on your feet! We get to say another Remember Verse together. This time let’s say it while we slowly turn around in circles. Ready, set, go!* Turn while reciting verse. **Good job. Everyone can have a seat.**

### “Sound Effect” Side

- Roll #1: **What part of The Big God Story had this sound?** *Tech: Cue Call sound effect.*
- Roll #2: *Tech: Cue Call sound effect.* **What were we learning about from The Big God Story when we heard this sound?** Samuel was living in the temple when he heard God’s voice speaking to him one night.
- Roll #3: **What part of The Big God Story had this sound?** *Tech: Cue Earthquake sound effect.*
- Roll #4: *Tech: Cue Earthquake sound effect.* **When we heard this sound in The Big God Story, what did we learn about God?** God is our safe place.

### “Music” Side

Lead children in a worship song of their choice. *Tech: Cue the celebratory worship song.*

### “Wacky Wardrobe” Side

- **Friends, you rolled the Wacky Wardrobe! Do you know what that means? We need to see what’s inside the wardrobe. I bet it’s something wacky!** Open the wardrobe and take out the envelope. Read the game that’s inside. **Hello, dear friends. Welcome to the Wacky Wardrobe. Today, each time you roll the Wacky Wardrobe, we’re going to flap our arms and make sounds like chickens.** Lead children in flapping arms and making chicken sounds.

### “Wardrobe of Wonder” Side

- Roll #1: *Tech: Cue Ear image and Call sound effect.* **Who heard a very special voice call to him in one of our lessons? Yes, Samuel did! God spoke to Samuel, and He speaks to us too. How can we get ourselves ready to hear God’s voice? Yes, we can tell God that we want to hear His voice and that we will listen. God speaks.**
- Roll #2: *Tech: Cue Large Rock image.* **What can this rock help us to remember about God? This rock reminds us of the part of The Big God Story when Samuel placed the Ebenezer stone. Why did he place a big stone in the ground? The stone was to help all who saw it remember that God took care of His people. He was present with them and was faithful to help them! God is help.**
- Roll #3: *Tech: Cue Musical Instruments image.* **God made us so we can know Him. And when we know Him and love Him, we want to worship Him. The book of Psalms shows us that we can worship God in everything we do. We can make music for Him using instruments like these, or we can sing, dance, or even create art for God. God is worthy of worship.**

- Roll #4: *Tech: Cue Hammer image.* What are hammers used for? That's right, for building things. God helped King Solomon and the people build something very special. They built a temple for God. God's people had to build the temple in a special way. Do you remember what that was? You're right! They couldn't use hammers or tools inside the building. They wanted to build it in a special way to honor God. God is worthy of worship.
- Roll #5: *Tech: Cue Whisper image.* Elijah was a prophet of the Lord God. Elijah took a very important message to the people of God. But when the queen heard the things Elijah said, she got very angry. So Elijah ran to a place he knew he would be safe. While on the mountain of the Lord, Elijah experienced a mighty wind, a great earthquake, and a fire. But Elijah waited. Then came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he knew it was the Lord. God was Elijah's safe place, and He is our safe place too.
- Roll #6: *Tech: Cue Bible image.* What is the Bible? It's God's Word. Many years ago, a priest in the land of Israel found God's Word and brought it to the king. King Josiah had *never* heard God's Word. He called all the people together and had God's Word read to them. Now the people knew how to worship God and follow Him. God still uses His Word to teach us how to know Him and follow Him. God's Word has power.

## Questions

1. What are some ways God has provided for you?
2. What are some ways God provides for people in other parts of the world?
3. God loves to be our abundant provider. How do you feel knowing that God will always provide for you?
4. How would you like to thank God today?

## Remember Verses

**Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."**

Isaiah 30:21

**Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.**

Psalm 143:10

## BLESS::: 5 min.

### Small Group Leaders

*Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.*

**SUPPLIES** (per small group)

**RELATE**

Gather children together in a circle, and give them direction for blessing the person on their left. **Before we leave, we're going to take a moment to give a blessing to the person on our left. Which side is your left?** Children respond. **Good job. When we bless someone, we tell her something that's true about God and something about the special person God has made her to be. Today, when it's our turn to bless our neighbor, we'll turn to him and say, "God will provide for you." Let's say that together.** Repeat this a couple of times with the children.

Begin the time of blessing by leading by example. **I'll go first.** Turn to the child on your left and say, "(Insert child's name), **God will provide for you.**" Encourage the child you just blessed to turn and bless the person on his left. Once every child has been blessed, close your time in a corporate blessing:

**Children, may you know God loves you very much and will provide for your needs.**